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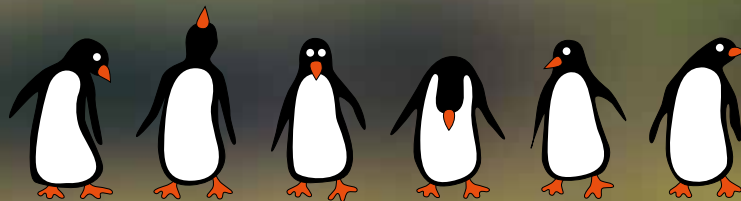
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\*Early booking offer is only available on selected departures and ends on the 30 September 2015. \*\*Standard inclusions listed; may differ slightly by operator.

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## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2015

### EDITOR'S LETTER



Welcome to the latest issue of Britain's biggest and best-selling cruise magazine. I love this time of year – the nights may be drawing in but it's the

perfect time to start planning your next cruise holiday, and with National Cruise Week from 19-27 September there are some fantastic offers around.

To help inspire you to choose your next holiday we're highlighting the hottest destinations for 2016 (page 76) – which ones will be going on your wishlist? Personally I'd love to go to Cuba and see Havana, but I'm also very tempted by Antarctica...

The Baltic is always a popular cruise destination – there's something very special about seeing the fairy tale capitals of Eastern Europe and also, of course, St Petersburg. Don't book a thing though until you've read our guide to the most exceptional itineraries for next year (page 57).

Also in this issue you can read about a cruise from Shanghai to Japan (page 50), and sailing along the Rhine on board one of the newest river cruise ships (page 104). And if you want some serious pampering on your next holiday, on page 31 we're showcasing the most luxurious cruise lines in the world.

All this – plus you could get up to 15% off gorgeous luggage at [caseluggage.com](http://caseluggage.com) (see page 14), and win a Viking river cruise to the Rhine worth £5,000. Turn to page 100 for details of how to enter.

Enjoy,

Liz Jarvis, Editor

[liz.jarvis@cruise-international.com](mailto:liz.jarvis@cruise-international.com)



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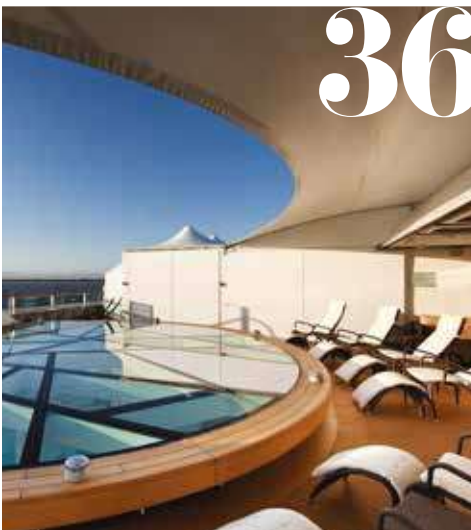
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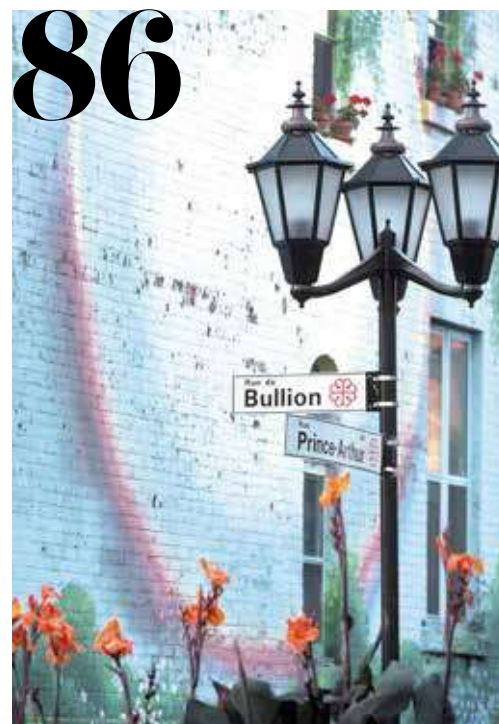
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You could win a Viking River Cruise  
for two worth £5,000

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# Hot spot

## SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

Autumn transforms the gardens surrounding the hexagonal Hyangwonjeong - or 'Pavilion of Far-Reaching Fragrance' - into a crown of crimson and ochre maple trees. Found on an island in a lake within the grounds of the 14th century Gyeongbokgung Palace, the structure was used by King Gojong as his private place for rest and leisure; a refuge from the formality of the imperial throne hall, Geunjeongjeon. Sister pavilion Gyeonghoeru was the venue for formal national banquets, and its architecture is so highly prized for its aesthetic qualities that it once appeared on the Korean 10,000 won banknote. Imposing yet regal, the royal structures make for a breathtaking excursion and are just 90 minutes from port to palace.

**>>Turn to page 78 to read about a cruise to Seoul**

PHOTO: © AWL





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# CRUISE *News*

SHIPS • EVENTS • DESTINATIONS

## SPLASHAWAY ON HARMONY OF THE SEAS

Royal Caribbean International has announced that an interactive water park, Splashaway Bay, will feature on new ship *Harmony of the Seas*.

Other attractions on the new ship will include a 10-storey slide, Ultimate Abyss, and The Perfect Storm trio of waterslides.

Ultimate Abyss will be the tallest slide at sea and feature a 100ft plunge.

Splashaway Bay will be suitable for children and toddlers and will have sea creature water cannons, winding slides, a drench bucket and a climbing frame.

The ship, the line's third Oasis class ship, will have seven neighbourhoods, a bionic bar, virtual balconies, and the line's innovative Voom internet service.

Dining options onboard the ship will include Izumi Hibachi & Sushi, Sabor Taqueria and Tequila Bar, and Wonderland Imaginative Cuisine.



\*To read a review of a cruise to Japan on Royal Caribbean's *Quantum of the Seas* turn to page 50.



### SLEEP IN STYLE

Regent Seven Seas have released images of luxurious staterooms on board its all-inclusive all-suite ship *Seven Seas Explorer*, due for delivery next summer.

Featuring sumptuous fabrics, contemporary soft furnishings and beautiful beds, the suites - decorated with contemporary neutral tones along with ultramarine blue accents - echo the lavish surroundings that will be found elsewhere on the new ship, including the Explorer Lounge and gourmet dining rooms Pacific Rim and Chartreuse. For more information visit [sevenseasexplorer.co.uk](http://sevenseasexplorer.co.uk).

## NORWEGIAN ESCAPE FLOATS OUT

**N**orwegian *Escape*, soon to be the largest ship in the Norwegian Cruise Line fleet, has been floated out of Meyer Werft's building dock in Papenburg, Germany.

With its signature hull artwork, designed by marine wildlife artist and conservationist Guy Harvey, *Norwegian Escape* - the first ship in the Breakaway Plus Class - represents an evolution for the Norwegian brand, incorporating guest favourites and providing further flexibility for guests.



Following inaugural events in Europe and Miami, *Norwegian Escape* will sail seven-night Eastern Caribbean cruises departing every Saturday from Miami beginning on 14 November 2015. ►►

# CARNIVAL PRIDE TO RETURN TO TAMPA

IN 2017

Carnival Cruise Lines' *Carnival Pride* will return to the Port of Tampa in January and February 2017 to operate a series of five- to 14-day voyages.

Departing 15, 22 and 29 January and 19 February 2017, *Carnival Pride* will operate a series of seven-day cruises from Tampa visiting some of the most popular destinations in the Caribbean, including Cozumel, Mexico; Belize City, Belize; Mahogany Bay, Isla Roatan; and George Town, Grand Cayman.

The 2,124-passenger ship has undergone a multimillion-pound renovation that added consumer favourites like Guy's Burger Joint, the full-service Bonsai Sushi, and Bluelguana Cantina serving authentic Mexican fare, along with innovative drink concepts like the pharmacy-themed Alchemy cocktail bar, and poolside



Bluelguana Tequila Bar and RedFrog Rum Bar.

A massive WaterWorks Aqua Park highlighted by Green Thunder, the fastest and steepest water slide at sea, is being added as well. For more details, go to [carnival.co.uk](http://carnival.co.uk).



## MSC LIRICA TO HOMEPORT IN SHANGHAI

*MSC Lirica* will make the Chinese city of Shanghai its new homeport from May 2016.

MSC Cruises CEO, Gianni Onorato, said: "MSC has been present in China since 2010, successfully bringing Chinese guests to cruise on its modern fleet to its many destinations, especially to Europe and the Mediterranean."

*MSC Lirica* is scheduled to reach its new homeport on 1 May 2016 after a 60-day Grand Voyage from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, via Europe and Dubai in the UAE.

This follows the news that from December 2015 MSC will be the first global cruise line to offer travellers the opportunity to visit Cuba and set sail on one of 16 cruises that *MSC Opera* will operate from Havana ([msccruises.co.uk](http://msccruises.co.uk)). »

# FREESTYLE YOUR WORLD



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- Norwegian Spirit makes her home in **Europe** year-round, sailing the **Eastern** and **Western Mediterranean**.
- Norwegian Escape's **FIRST FULL SEASON** in the **Caribbean**

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# HOLLYWOOD

## *on the high seas*

**F**ollowing a summer of celebrations marking its 175th anniversary, Cunard has released a set of nostalgic snapshots from the line's image archive that capture the grandeur and glamour it is still famous for today.

The collection of stunning photographs - taken during the 20th century - show the opulence of Cunard's first class lounges, dining rooms and promenades as well as some of the famous guests to have graced its decks, including singer Bing Crosby, legendary actress Dame Elizabeth Taylor, 'the King of Hollywood' himself, Clark Gable, screen beauty Rita Hayworth and Nelson Mandela. You can see more images at [cruise-international.com/vintage-cunard-photos](http://cruise-international.com/vintage-cunard-photos). 🚢



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# CRUISE *Style*

Our pick of the hottest fashion buys for your trip



## GET AHEAD

Floppy hats are going to be massive this autumn - we love this one from Hobbs (£45, [hobbs.co.uk](http://hobbs.co.uk)).

## SILVER STAR

A simple ocean-inspired silver ring, like this one by Nina Trommen, will make a big statement.



# Baltic chic

A lined tweed jacket is ideal for sightseeing – this one is from Gil Bret



## TOTE SWEET

A leather tote bag is fab for travelling (£195, [houseoffraser.co.uk](http://houseoffraser.co.uk)).



## PRETTY GREEN

Add an elegant splash of colour with a gorgeous on trend Ombre Edge scarf (£50, [jaeger.co.uk](http://jaeger.co.uk)).



## SOFT APPEAL

Ponchos are perfect for a quick cover-up – and rose pink is a hot trend this season (£55, [Betty Barclay.com](http://BettyBarclay.com)).



## BELT UP

This very cool Biba belt is our must-buy tip – at £40 it's a total bargain ([houseoffraser.co.uk](http://houseoffraser.co.uk)).



## EXOTIC TASTE

In what we think must be the first chef-inspired fragrance, new perfume **FOUR**, a collaboration between Jason Atherton, food mag **FOUR** fragrance creators Boadicea the Victorious, takes inspiration from Jason's experiences and travels. It has notes of vetiver and bergamot, combined with the sweet spiciness of Tunisian neroli, and balanced with deep notes of Atlas cedar wood, amber and black, white and pink pepper (available from Harrods Perfumery and internationally, £245 for 100ml).



## THE FUTURE IS GREIGE

The new buzzword for cosmetics is Greige, courtesy of Bobbi Brown's fabulous new collection, which features a curated range of neutral shades for a chic, classical look. Must-buys include the gorgeous Greige Eye Palette and the intense pigment liner (available from Bobbi Brown travel retail locations worldwide).

# Beauty NEWS

The very latest products and tips to keep you looking and feeling gorgeous on your travels



## BOX OF TRICKS

Clinique's new travel-inspired make-up boxes are just the thing to take on your next cruise. Every set includes a make-up bag and the best-selling shades from four destinations – London, Paris, Hong Kong, New York. Available from Duty Free locations worldwide. 🛍️



## Best in Show

They say dogs owners look like their pooches, and we love the new M.A.C campaign for their Haute Dogs collection, with models including Sophie Dahl and canine lookalikes. The range features buttery fur tones, regal berries and gold-spun sculpting powders (available at M.A.C travel retail locations worldwide).

Go online: For more style ideas go to [cruise-international.com/category/cruise-style-blog/](http://cruise-international.com/category/cruise-style-blog/)



### A LITTLE RUNAROUND

We love this trolley case, and it complies with most airlines carry-on size regulations once the removable front portfolio case is zipped off (£695, [uk.tumi.com](http://uk.tumi.com)).



ACTRESS INGRID BERGMAN  
WITH FIRST HUSBAND  
LARS SCHMIDT, 1958



### BACK IN ACTION

This bright backpack offers one main compartment with an inside laptop pocket that fastens with a sturdy one-hook function. Made from a rubberised blend of polyester and polyurethane, it's perfect for keeping your essentials dry in the rain (£75, [rainsuk.com](http://rainsuk.com)).

# LET'S *go*

Our pick of the hottest  
buys for your travels



### STYLE STEEL

Crafted in Dorset, these contemporary cufflinks combine fine American walnut set within diamond knurl marine grade stainless steel. Each pair comes with a presentation box handmade from one piece of leather and brass Chicago screws (£75, [mangunbear.com](http://mangunbear.com)).



### POWER UP

The 4-in-1 Worldwide Travel Plug Adaptor works in over 150 countries, making it fantastic for cruises. Follow the colour-coded list of countries, click the different components of the plug together and you're away (£20, [bearandbear.com](http://bearandbear.com)).



### SLEEK AND CHIC

Classic in design and ultra light, the stylish Bric's Bellagio carry-on combines a sturdy aluminium frame with elegant Tuscan leather trims (£550, [caseluggage.com](http://caseluggage.com)).

Go online: For more style ideas  
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# CRUISE *Well*

Every issue we bring you the latest health and wellbeing news



## Mary's secret

Great British Bake Off  
star Mary Berry, CBE,  
hosted cookery classes on  
board P&O's *Britannia* in  
the summer, but if you've

ever wondered how she stays so svelte while  
sampling all that cake she says it's all about  
having a little of what you fancy: "I think  
a balanced diet is the way to stay fit and  
healthy, sensible portion sizes and not going  
back for second helpings." We'll do our best.



## Feet first

Did you know that walking barefoot reconnects your brain with the sensory information coming from the soles of your feet? Vivobarefoot, a footwear brand championing barefoot movement, has just launched Motus, the ultimate movement shoe with an ultra-flexible puncture-resistant sole. The unisex shoes are ideal for travelling, exploring and adventure (£110, [vivobarefoot.com](http://vivobarefoot.com)).

## Happy talk

According to research by the UN, the following countries are the happiest in the world - so if you need a boost, you know where to go on your next cruise.

1. Switzerland
2. Iceland
3. Denmark
4. Norway
5. Canada
6. Finland
7. The Netherlands
8. Sweden
9. New Zealand
10. Australia



## EAST MEETS WEST

Adaptogenic botanicals are hot right now - they're potent natural plants that help battle stress. New skincare range SkinPointEight from world-renowned Chinese Medicine Practitioner and Wellbeing Expert John Tsagaris is enriched with these natural wonders as well as liquid crystal hydrosomes to help assist hydration and protect the skin (£290, available from Harrods. For more information visit [johntsagaris.co.uk](http://johntsagaris.co.uk)).



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# JAMIE'S ITALIAN *at sea*

With Jamie's Italian restaurants now on board Royal Caribbean's Anthem of the Seas and Quantum of the Seas, here are three delicious pasta recipes created by **Jamie Oliver**



## PENNE ARRABIATA SERVES 4

3 to 4 fresh red chillies,  
finely chopped  
6 cloves of garlic, peeled and  
finely chopped  
2 x 400g tins quality  
chopped tomatoes  
200ml organic vegetable  
stock  
400g penne  
A bunch of fresh basil,  
leaves picked and torn  
25g Parmesan cheese  
Optional: ½ Scotch bonnet

chilli, very finely chopped  
Extra virgin olive oil

### FOR THE PANGRATTATO

50g sourdough or ciabatta  
breadcrumbs  
½ a bunch of mixed fresh  
herbs, such as sage,  
rosemary, thyme, leaves  
picked and chopped  
1 clove of garlic, peeled and  
finely chopped  
Olive oil

### METHOD

- Mix all the pangrattato ingredients and a glug of olive oil together in a bowl. Tip onto a baking tray, then spread out evenly and toast under the grill for 2 to 4 minutes, or until lightly golden, giving the tray a jiggle occasionally for even cooking. Leave aside.
- Add a splash of olive oil to a large pan over a medium heat, then fry the chilli and garlic for 1 to 2 minutes, or until softened and smelling fantastic, then pour in the tomatoes and vegetable stock and bring up to a simmer.
- Meanwhile, add the pasta to a pan of boiling salted water and cook according to the packet instructions. When the pasta is al dente (still with a bit of bite), drain, reserving a cup of the cooking water.
- Tip the pasta and most of the basil into the tomato sauce, then cook for a further minute or so, adding a splash of reserved cooking water to loosen, if needed. Divide between your plates, then finish with a few shavings of Parmesan, the remaining basil leaves, a sprinkling of scotch bonnet chilli (if using), and some crunchy pangrattato. Finish with a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil, then serve straight away.



PHOTOS © DAVID LOFTUS



## COCKLE LINGUINE SERVES 4

1kg cockles  
400g linguine  
Olive oil  
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped  
1 red chilli, deseeded and finely  
sliced  
2 anchovy fillets

½ bunch of parsley, stalks finely  
chopped, leaves roughly chopped  
1 to 2 tsp chilli paste  
100ml white wine  
40g butter  
Juice of ½ lemon

### METHOD

- Rinse the cockles and test they're alive by sliding a small knife between the shells. If the cockle doesn't clamp down on the knife, discard it.
- Cook the linguine according to the packet instructions. Meanwhile, heat a glug of oil in a pan and gently fry the garlic with the red chilli, anchovies,

parsley stalks and chilli paste until soft.

- Stir in the cockles. Add the wine and cook, covered, for 2 to 3 minutes. If the cockles are not all open, cook for 1 to 2 minutes more. Add the butter and parsley leaves, swirling the pan to melt the butter. Add the drained pasta and lemon juice, stir well and serve. Discard any unopened shells.



## BREAM AQUA PAZZA SERVES 2

2 x 300g whole gilt-head bream, scaled, gutted and spiny fins removed  
Olive oil  
1 small fresh red chilli, finely sliced  
2 cloves of garlic, peeled and finely sliced  
½ a bunch of fresh flat-leaf parsley, leaves picked

1½ teaspoons capers, rinsed  
6 to 8 Gaeta, or other black olives  
120g mixed-coloured cherry tomatoes, some halved and some left whole  
Freshly ground black pepper  
White wine  
160ml organic vegetable stock

- Preheat your oven to the lowest setting and pop your plates in to warm. Slash the bream on both sides about 1cm deep, in a criss-cross fashion.

- Place a large frying pan over a medium-high heat, add a lug of olive oil then lay in the fish. Add the chilli and garlic, then fry for around 30 seconds, then add the parsley, capers, olives, tomatoes and a pinch of black pepper and fry for a further 30 seconds. Add a couple of good splashes of white wine and the vegetable stock, then cover and cook

over a medium-low heat for 6 to 7 minutes, or until the fish is beautifully cooked and the flesh pulls easily away from the bone.

- Transfer the fish to warm plates using a slotted spoon, then continue to cook the sauce until slightly reduced and it has a reddish tinge. Pour the sauce over the fish and serve immediately. 🍴

**Go online:** For more recipe ideas go to [cruise-international.com](http://cruise-international.com)





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# “I’M ADDICTED TO CRUISE”

Best-selling novelist **Milly Johnson** has spent nearly £60,000 on cruise holidays – here she tells us why she can’t get enough of life at sea



WITH MY BOYS AT THE LEANING TOWER OF PISA





MEETING CHEF MARCO PIERRE-WHITE

I've just spent a blissful fortnight on P&O's *Azura*. Again. I love that ship. I know it so well that it's become a home from home for me, and the itinerary was port-rich: eight in 14 days. I have always wanted to see the Leaning Tower of Pisa and it was even more fabulous than I imagined. Plus it made for great background selfie material – essential criteria for my two teenage sons. Later that day I was handbag shopping in Florence, though it was 42°C so thank goodness for the shelter of cafés which served ice-cold Peronis and pumped out cool fine water vapour over its grateful customers.

We posed by the Colosseum in Rome, purred at the yachts and Ferraris in Monaco, and paddled in the Corsican sea. And I've never seen as many dolphins in the ocean before escorting us on our way from Gibraltar. Oh, and did I mention I had a good old natter to featured chef Marco Pierre-White, who starred in my third book and travelled with us for a few days?

I've been cruising for 12 years now, ever since a friend of mine convinced me that it would be a perfect way to holiday. It wasn't something I had considered before, but I'd just come through a nasty, exhausting divorce and badly needed a break, and the idea of flying to a resort with two pre-school children wasn't appealing to me. My friend was right: all three of us took to cruising like ducks to water. The children had a whale of a time in the kids' clubs, so much so that I had to drag them out to eat. They paraded around dressed as pirates earning their dolphin dollars while I chilled in the sun with a Pinot Grigio and a good book and I felt my head empty of everything but the moment.

My boys are in their late teens now and still loving the ships, though they are more interested these days in bronzing their muscles to impress the girls than bouncing around in a ball pool. On board we have had quality family time together, talking at the dinner table, laughing together at the comedians in the theatre, and of course fighting over the mirrors in the bathroom. They now take an age to get ready. A far cry from the old days when they were out of bed and into their shorts and t-shirts in seconds in case they were late for their tuition by a professional footballer up in the nets.

I've had time and opportunity to lose myself in reading gritty crime novels, test out some cocktails and have a massage in the spa that ironed out the knots in



ENJOYING A DRINK WITH MY YOUNGEST SON

my neck so much I swear I walked out of the treatment room three inches taller. Taking time out for myself is something I forget to do on land. At sea, I make sure I'm my own best friend.

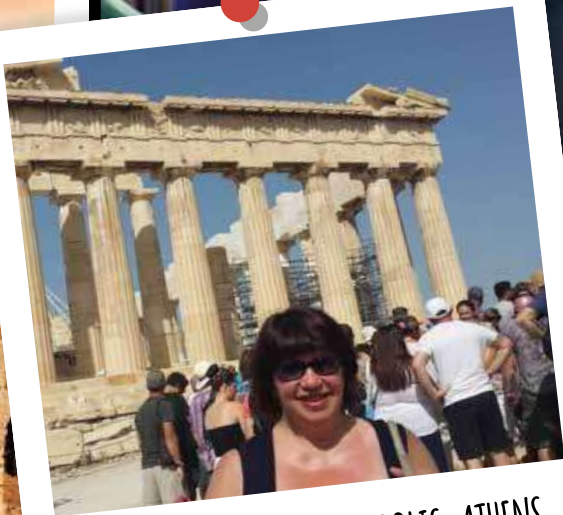
Cruising has given us as a family the opportunity to see so much of the world and be thrilled by the big and the small: the ruins of Pompeii, the shipyards of Gdansk, the ces of Russia – and equally sinating for young ones – lemons the size of rugby balls on a Sorrento farm. We have swum

in the most beautiful sea coves which can only be reached by boat, sailed on underground fairy tale lakes and been mesmerised by a Venetian glassblower making a Ferrari horse from a molten blob on a stick.

We've had adventures that we didn't mean to have either, the most notable being when I missed the ship in 2012 and had a three-day dash across Europe to catch up with *Azura*. It was a tale of a maniac taxi driver, a woman selling knickers, huge disguising sunglasses and some of the most beautiful scenery my eyes have ever touched on. In retrospect, it's funny, but at the time, it was anything but.

A cruise holiday isn't cheap, but it doesn't have to be wildly expensive either. You don't need a new ball gown for every evening, you don't have to book a suite with a butler. Taking into account that a four or five course meal for





SIGHTSEEING AT THE ACROPOLIS, ATHENS

three in a restaurant every night would cost us about £100 – and that's a conservative estimate – I would say a cruise is pretty good value. I reckon I've spent about £60,000 on our cruise holidays but I don't begrudge a penny of it. I've worked hard enough to deserve them and I've loved every one of them and I've come back to terra firma invigorated and ready to get my teeth into my next project.

My work levels are ridiculous and I'd explode if I didn't have a yearly holiday. And that's why I cruise, because I've found that being at sea on a ship is the only way I can truly relax. It's as if my pressures are stopped by border control at Southampton and are not permitted to follow me on board. Yes, they will be waiting for me when I return, but by then I know my batteries will be fully recharged and I will be strong enough to take them back onto my shoulders.

I've had a partner for nearly four years now and yes, I've converted him to cruising too. He was under the same delusions I was all those years ago – that he'd be cramped and bored and surrounded by miserable pensioners. Like us, he was amazed at how much there is to do, and how huge and comfortable the ships are. It was a thrill to see his shoulders drop as he relaxed and lazed in the sun.

I once invited a friend to come with us to test it out because her fiancé wasn't keen on taking the plunge. He saw her holiday photos, allowed himself to be persuaded and now they take three a year. They even married on board. I'm rather proud of bringing cruising into their lives.

Now I'm home with no one to call me ma'am or to make my bed for me and a dip in my spirits is natural, but I've discovered that there is a sure and certain way to beat those post-holiday blues and that's to start planning the next cruise. It's the only solution. 🛳️

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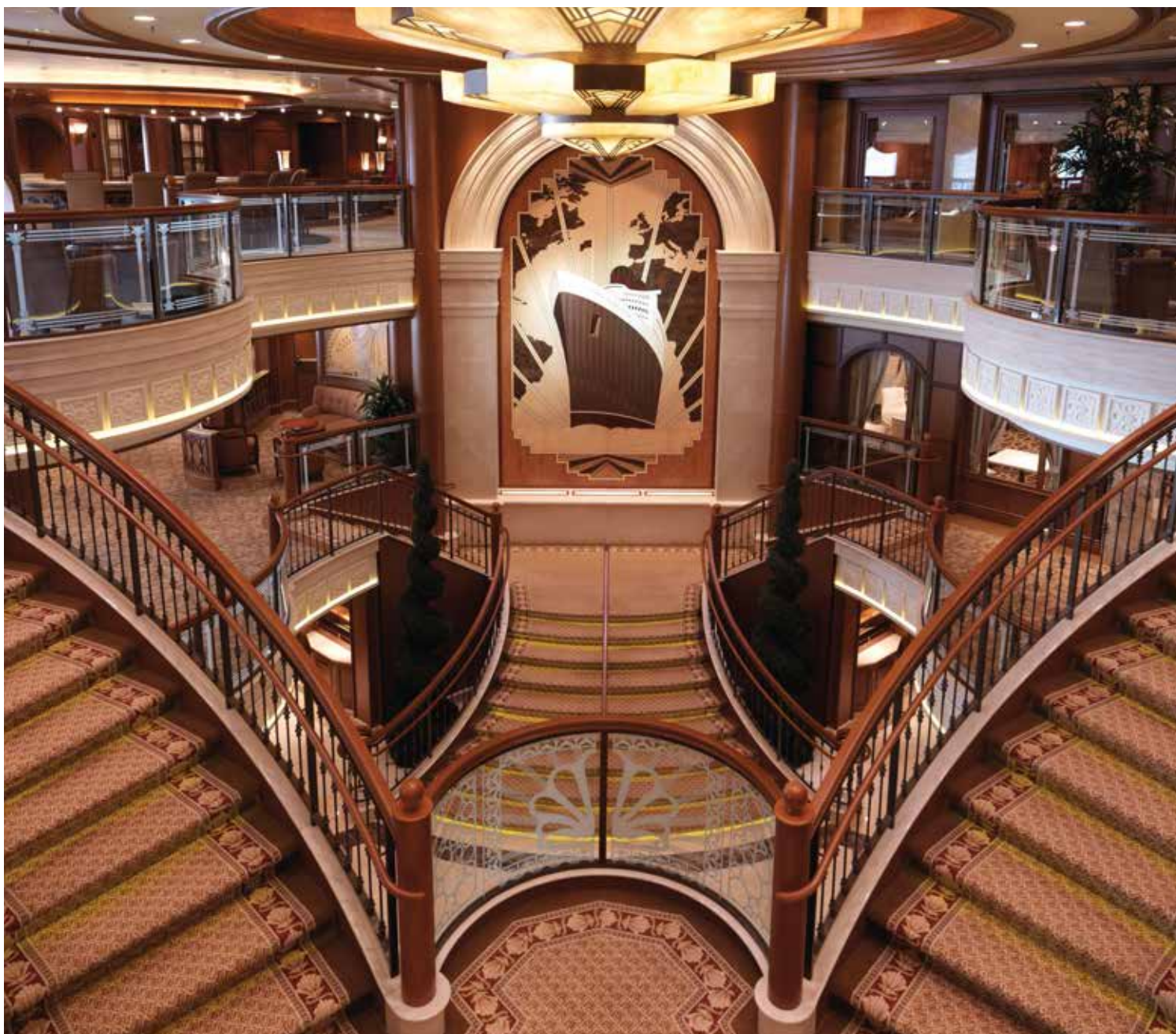


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## CUNARD

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**THE LUXE FACTOR** Choose to stay in one of Cunard's Queens Grill or Princess Grill Suites and you'll enjoy a superb level of luxury including the most exquisite cuisine available and the option to dine in your suite. For more information call 0843 374 2224 or visit [cunard.co.uk](http://cunard.co.uk).

## BELMOND

The five luxury barges of Belmond Afloat – *Alouette*, *Fleur de Lys*, *Amaryllis*, *Hirondelle* and *Napoleon* – allow guests to crisscross the waterways of France in charming splendour, from the lavender fields of Provence to the vineyards of the Rhône Valley; beautiful cabins are furnished with rich fabrics and antiques. On the Irrawaddy in Burma meanwhile, Belmond operates the two graceful river ships *Belmond Road to Mandalay* and *Belmond Orcaella*.

**THE LUXE FACTOR** Dining on board Belmond Afloat's vessels is of an extraordinarily high quality, offering guests the finest in French cuisine, all paired with renowned regional wines. For more information call 0845 0772 222 or visit [belmond.com/river-cruises](http://belmond.com/river-cruises).





## CELEBRITY

Celebrity's Solstice Class ships exude contemporary style, and their tagline is 'modern luxury'. Expect real manicured lawns and cool bars; innovative dining Suites and Suite Class staterooms offer extra special touches including personal butler service and access to private restaurants and lounges.

**THE LUXE FACTOR** Celebrity recently launched Jet Set Sail, the all-new premium charter flight service at Stansted Airport's private terminal that allows guests a stress-free start and end to their holiday. The service comes complete with speedy check-in, two-course breakfast on outbound flights, two-course lunch on inbound flights, and transfers to and from arrival airport to cruise terminal. For more information visit [celebritycruises.co.uk](http://celebritycruises.co.uk) or call 0844 493 2043. »





### HOLLAND AMERICA

This five-star cruise line is known for its excellent cuisine and four opulent suite categories. Each ship's Greenhouse Spa offers a heated hydrotherapy pool containing therapeutic sea water, massage therapies and fitness classes including yoga and pilates. Dining options on board are flexible to suit your mood and tastes, allowing spontaneity for guests to sample a range of cuisines.

**THE LUXE FACTOR** Holland America has its own private island in the Bahamas, Half Moon Cay. This paradise island features a shimmering turquoise lagoon and a two-mile crescent of perfect, pristine beach, where activities include snorkelling. Visit [hollandamerica.com](http://hollandamerica.com) or call 0843 374 2300 for more details.

### CRYSTAL

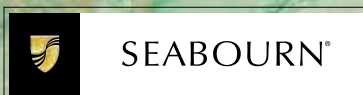
Crystal's exceptional service, sumptuous interiors and intrepid spirit all make Crystal the go-to cruise line for adventure-hungry guests eager to travel in style on board its ships *Crystal Symphony* and *Crystal Serenity*. Inspired by the casual-yet-cultured vibe of southern California, *Crystal Serenity* houses extravagant staterooms with stunning bathrooms. *Crystal Symphony* is a grand vessel too, complete with sparkling Seahorse Pool and outstanding restaurants.

**THE LUXE FACTOR** The Crystal Dining Room offers several menus to choose from each evening, with the 'modern' option offering imaginative culinary creations such as a Shiraz-braised oxtail ragout or strawberries Romanoff with cotton candy dome. For more information visit [crystalcruises.co.uk](http://crystalcruises.co.uk) or call 0207 399 7601. >>



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## SCENIC

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**THE LUXE FACTOR** The five-course Italian cuisine at Portobellos is available for every guest to try at least once, where they can savour paired Tuscan wines with their meal. Diamond Deck passengers will receive exclusive invites to a lavish seven-course meal at premier dining venue Table La Rive. For more information visit [scenic.co.uk](http://scenic.co.uk) or call 0800 566 8777.

## SEABOURN

Seabourn offers an ultra-luxury boutique hotel atmosphere; décor in its suites is sumptuously smart, with lush carpets on the floors and contemporary art on the walls. The Spa at Seabourn – on board its three ships *Oydssey*, *Quest* and *Sojourn* – provides guests a variety of treatments that range from massages and facials to body treatments, wraps and soothing water therapies.

**THE LUXE FACTOR** The new 604-guest *Seabourn Encore*, which arrives in 2016, will offer Seabourn guests a culinary experience like never before in its new signature restaurant. In partnership with world-renowned American chef and restaurateur Thomas Keller – the culinary genius behind a trio of Michelin-starred venues – guests can expect to dine on expertly created dishes. Visit [seabourn.com](http://seabourn.com) for more information. ►►





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## UNIWORLD

The winners of the Best Luxury River Cruise Line award at the Cruise International Awards for four years running pride themselves on being a boutique river cruise line.

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in the atrium alongside a shimmering waterfall cascading down one side of a glass elevator, while the cruise line's newest ship, the beautiful *S.S. Maria Theresa*, offers exquisite spaces including the Hapsburg Salon, a fabulously decadent venue to enjoy an opulent afternoon tea, and the 'snow' Bar du Leopard – a haven of relaxation in silver and grey. There's also an excellent onboard masseuse offering an array of relaxing massages.

**THE LUXE FACTOR** Uniworld's 'Six Star Experience' includes Titan's VIP door-to-door departure service, ensuring your whole travel experience is flawless from start to finish. For more information visit [titantravel.co.uk](http://titantravel.co.uk) or call 0800 988 5175. ►►

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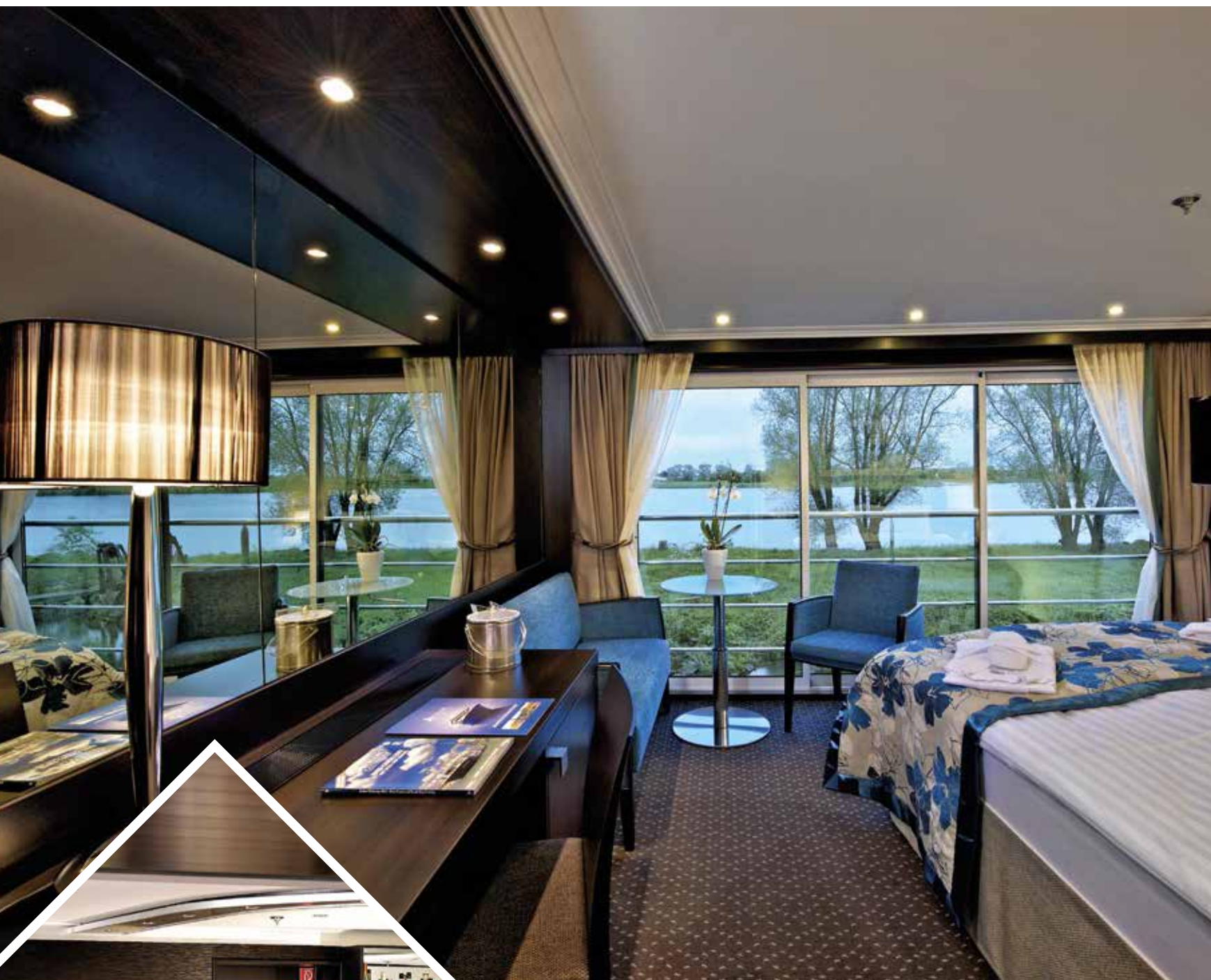
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## AVALON WATERWAYS

Avalon's staterooms are elegant and classic with contemporary art hanging on neutral coloured walls; in the dining room – also beautifully decorated – you can enjoy menus reflective of the region your ship is exploring at the time. Breakfast is available to have delivered to your suite should you wish and guests can expect a lavish five-course farewell dinner on their final night on board.

**THE LUXE FACTOR** The Avalon Deluxe Stateroom is truly a home-away-from-home furnished with a large bathroom, Egyptian cotton linens and L'Occitane toiletries. For more information visit [avalonwaterways.com](http://avalonwaterways.com) or call 0808 115 2927.

## VIKING RIVER

Viking's Longships offer sleek blonde wood interiors, fantastic service and a relaxed vibe. Little touches like L'Occitane toiletries in the bathrooms and in the Explorer Suites and wraparound verandas add to the glamorous ambience. Superb shore excursions ensure guests are able to get a real sense of history at ports of call.

**THE LUXE FACTOR** Menus reflect the regions through which Viking travel and the line even has its own vintner in the Wachau valley that selects the perfect wines to serve on board. Visit [vikingrivercruises.co.uk](http://vikingrivercruises.co.uk) or call 0208 780 7900 for more details. ►►





### AZAMARA CLUB CRUISES

Azamara are known for pioneering the 'destination immersion' experience, giving guests more time in port, and their AzAmazing Evenings feature money-can't-buy experiences; but the entire Azamara experience feels luxurious. Ships *Azamara Journey* and *Azamara Quest* are getting a revamp early next year, creating a more contemporary ambience, and from January 2016, guests in Club World Owner's and Club Ocean suites can choose from complimentary 'Insider Access' or 'Nights & Cool Places' excursions.

**THE LUXE FACTOR** Suite guest privileges include your own British-trained traditional butler, who is ready to assist with restaurant and spa reservations, private parties, dinners for two and more. For more information visit [azamaracruises.co.uk](http://azamaracruises.co.uk) or call 0844 493 4016.

### AMA WATERWAYS

Ama's smart and contemporary ships offer a glamorous way to travel on Europe's rivers. Staterooms are stylish, spacious and peaceful.

**THE LUXE FACTOR** Champagne breakfasts and exquisite, intimate meals. In fact, Ama Waterways is proud to be the only river cruise line invited to join one of the world's most prestigious culinary organisations, La Chaine des Rotisseurs. For more information visit [aptouring.co.uk](http://aptouring.co.uk) or call 0800 012 6005. ►►



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**THE LUXE FACTOR** Oceania has won 'Best For Food' at the Cruise International Awards for two years running and boasts exceptional dining facilities, with acclaimed French chef Jacques Pepin heading up the kitchen, Toscana serving up Tuscany-inspired dishes on Versace china, and Waves Grill providing all-American favourites just steps from the swimming pool. For more information visit [oceaniacruises.com](http://oceaniacruises.com) or call 0845 505 1920.



## EMERALD WATERWAYS

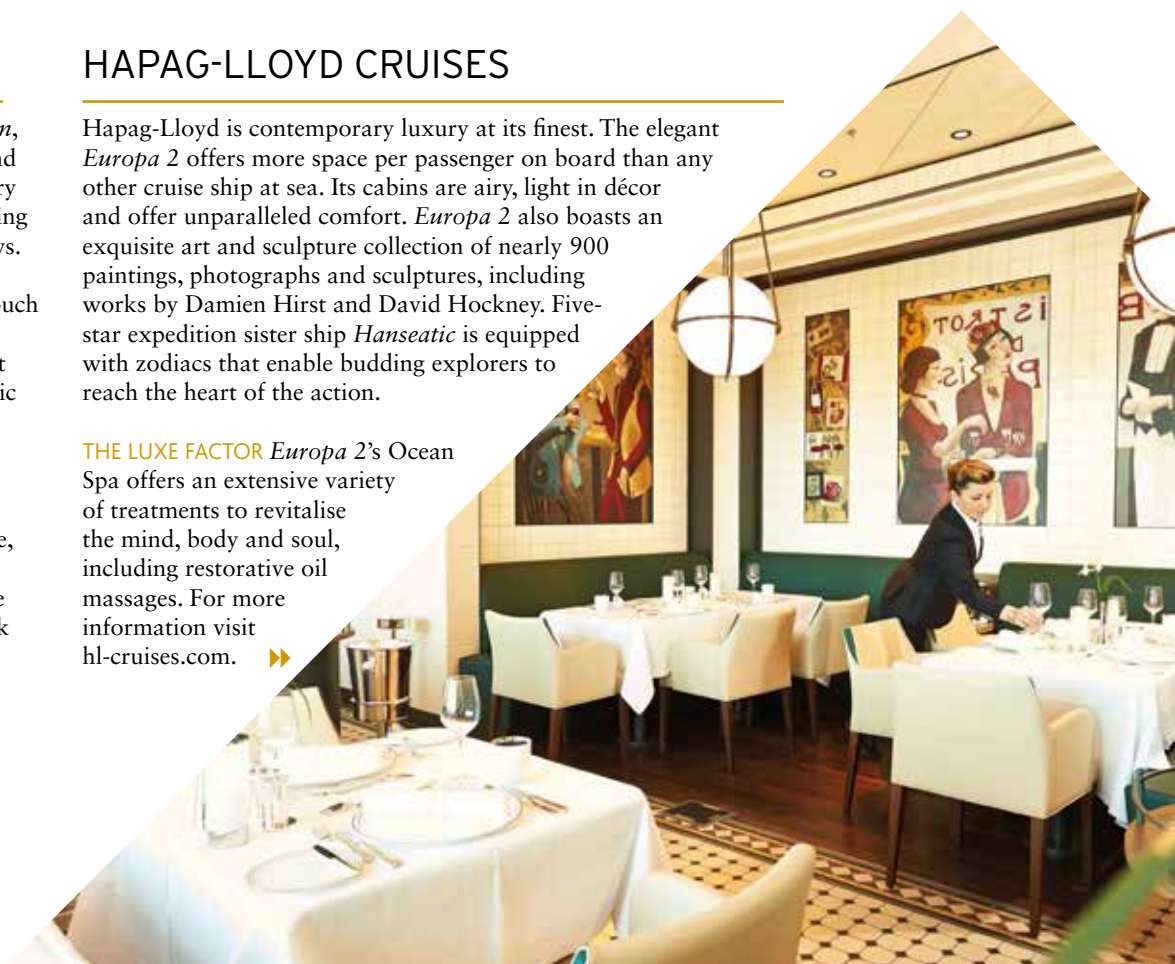
Emerald's four innovative Star-Ships – *Sun*, *Sky*, *Dawn* and *Star* – are sleek, stylish and chic. Its rooms are fresh and contemporary with Horizon and Vista Deck suites housing vast windows offering ever-changing views. Emerald's Panorama Balcony Suite is a completely new type of cabin; with the touch of a button, the upper half of the cabin's floor-to-ceiling window drops down to let fresh air roll in and provide full panoramic views of the landscape.

**THE LUXE FACTOR** Emerald's top grade Owner's Suite includes complimentary laundry service, Nespresso coffee machine, iPad, daily pre-dinner canapés and the option to have breakfast in bed. For more information visit [emeraldwaterways.co.uk](http://emeraldwaterways.co.uk) or call 0808 102 1205.

## HAPAG-LLOYD CRUISES

Hapag-Lloyd is contemporary luxury at its finest. The elegant *Europa 2* offers more space per passenger on board than any other cruise ship at sea. Its cabins are airy, light in décor and offer unparalleled comfort. *Europa 2* also boasts an exquisite art and sculpture collection of nearly 900 paintings, photographs and sculptures, including works by Damien Hirst and David Hockney. Five-star expedition sister ship *Hanseatic* is equipped with zodiacs that enable budding explorers to reach the heart of the action.

**THE LUXE FACTOR** *Europa 2*'s Ocean Spa offers an extensive variety of treatments to revitalise the mind, body and soul, including restorative oil massages. For more information visit [hl-cruises.com](http://hl-cruises.com). ➤





## REGENT SEVEN SEAS

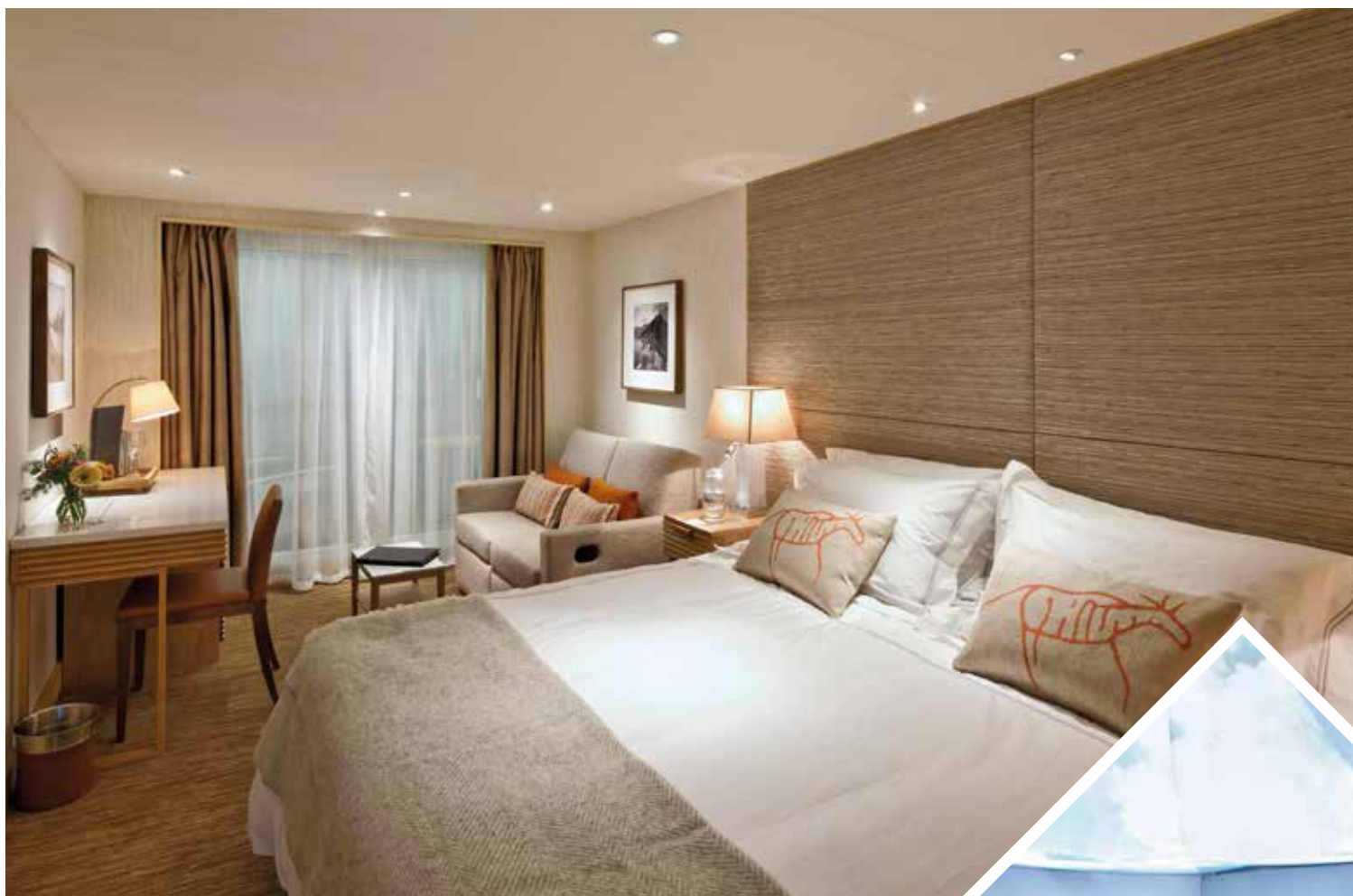
One of the most all-inclusive experiences at sea, Regent Seven Seas is all about relaxed, understated elegance; it's glamorous and sophisticated without being stuffy. There's an enviable staff-to-guest ratio, gourmet dining without any cover charges and no gratuities or service charges to pay.

**THE LUXE FACTOR** Next July, Regent Seven Seas will launch the world's most luxurious ship ever built, *Seven Seas Explorer*. Along with sumptuous Veranda, Master and Penthouse suites there'll also be the one-off Regent Suite, the biggest luxury apartment suite at sea and the only one with its own spa and sauna, steam room and heated loungers. There's even a Steinway piano. For more information visit [rssc.com](http://rssc.com) or call 02380 682 280.

## PONANT

Chic, French and designed for those who adore the best things in life, Ponant's ships have gleaming, handsome exteriors, and interiors infused with Gallic style. Space and quality is the essence of any Ponant vessel, with lounges and reading areas furnished with sleek armchairs and chunky coffee tables. Guests can also expect exquisite dining with French and international cuisine along with complimentary wines included at lunch and dinner.

**THE LUXE FACTOR** Reserved exclusively for its most discerning passengers travelling in one of the 13 suites on deck six, Ponant's butler service on board *L'Austral*, *Le Boréal*, *Le Soléal* and *Le Lyréal* offers unparalleled service for total peace of mind and relaxation. For more information visit [en.ponant.com](http://en.ponant.com) or call 0800 980 4027.



## VIKING OCEAN CRUISES

Viking's sleek, sophisticated first ocean vessel, *Viking Star*, combines the cruise line's signature Scandinavian-inspired design with the ambience of a glamorous boutique hotel. Every stateroom has a private veranda and underfloor heating in the bathroom, and the penthouses offer superb living space. The fabulous LivNordic spa is one of the best at sea, and the spa menu offers an enticing range of treatments too, such as the classic Swedish massage and various authentic Scandinavian facials.

**THE LUXE FACTOR** For the ultimate indulgence, the lavish Owner's Suite, personally designed by Viking's owner Torstein Hagen, has its own sauna with sea view and extensive wine cabinet. For more information visit [vikingcruises.co.uk/oceans](http://vikingcruises.co.uk/oceans) or call 0208 780 8701.

## SILVERSEA

Silversea offers relaxed all-inclusive luxury, with Champagne on tap (plus the wines and spirits in your suite can be stocked to individual preferences), and gourmet cuisine (including gold leaf risotto served at Le Champagne restaurant and the 'Hot Rocks' experience).

**THE LUXE FACTOR** Butlers – available on all ships for all suites – will help you unpack your luggage and settle in to your suite, make dinner reservations, arrange private fitness sessions, polish and condition shoes, replenish the suite bar and repack your luggage at the end of the voyage. For more information visit [silversea.com](http://silversea.com) or call 0844 251 0837. 🍷



# EXPLORING *the exotic*

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with small ship cruising experts Swan Hellenic



**S**wan Hellenic has been perfecting the art of small ship discovery cruising for 60 years, leading the way to some of the world's most intriguing destinations in the company of renowned guest speakers who delight in sharing their enthusiasm and expertise.

From the moment you arrive at your departure point, you'll be looked after by experienced staff who will accompany you on board *Minerva* in the company of just 350 like-minded passengers.

Travel in country house style to cities of music, culture and art, sites of ancient civilisations and inspirational landscapes. *Minerva's* small size means it can sail straight into the heart of each destination, where you can step ashore to discover a host of highlights thanks to their inclusive shore excursion programme.



During leisurely days at sea, attend their guest speakers' intriguing talks in the Darwin Lounge, setting the scene for *Minerva's* arrival in the next port of call. These presentations can also be watched in the Livingstone Lounge or from the comfort of your cabin. After a visit to *Minerva's* well-stocked library, you can retire to the serenity of the Orpheus Lounge, which offers splendid panoramic views. Relax in a teak chair on deck, enjoy a dip in the swimming pool, or learn a new skill – bridge, painting, yoga or tai chi – in one of the workshops.

At lunchtime, choose from a delicious à la carte menu in the Swan Restaurant, a lighter buffet in the Veranda or an al fresco barbecue around the pool. Afternoon tea is a fine tradition, and each day a complimentary selection of cakes, sandwiches and biscuits will be served in the Swan Restaurant. In the evenings, dine at the table of your choice in the company of your friends at any time during opening hours. This relaxed arrangement is one of the most popular features of life on board *Minerva* and creates a congenial atmosphere.

As the sun sets on another day, meet friends for drinks in one of *Minerva's* bars – the intimate Wheeler Bar, the spacious Shackleton Bar or the panoramic Orpheus Lounge. Background cocktail music – piano, harp or classical guitar, and the buzz of animated conversation set the tone for an enchanting evening.

After dinner, enjoy a varied programme of entertainment, from classical concerts and sparkling revues to Swan Hellenic's ever-popular crew show or film night in the Darwin Lounge. Later, dance to the *Minerva* band or stroll around the Promenade Deck under the stars.

As their summer 2015 programme comes to an end, *Minerva* sails from the volcanic landscapes of the Canary Islands and beautiful Cape Verde to the vibrant shores of the Caribbean, bringing in 2016 with visits to Latin America, Chile and South America.



**Clockwise from top left:** Beautiful Maracas Bay, Trinidad; graffiti covered houses in Valparaíso, Chile; Caribbean spice baskets; Swan Hellenic's *Minerva*

## A TALE OF TWO CONTINENTS

An unforgettable voyage departing from Tenerife, the largest island in the Canary archipelago. *Minerva* calls at La Palma's capital, Santa Cruz de la Palma, before sailing to Cape Verde, where you can discover an intriguing mix of African and Portuguese influences.

From Sao Vicente, you'll take in spectacular views en route to Catfish Bay, before enjoying live traditional music and visiting the European-inspired city of Mindelo. Next, *Minerva* sails from Cape Verde across the Atlantic to the New World.

St George's, on the island of Grenada, is the penultimate port of call, where you can admire the ruins of the residence of the Governor General and take in incredible views from Fort Frederick. Your trip is rounded off with a drive along Grand Anse Beach to the bustling spice market, where you can purchase the nutmeg, cinnamon and cocoa for which the 'Island of Spice' is famed.

The 19-day *Tale of Two Continents* cruise departs Tenerife on 3 December 2015 with Saver Fares starting from £1,199pp.



## CARIBBEAN COLONIAL TRAILS

This itinerary offers a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas and the New Year, beginning with an overnight stay in Barbados and visit to Dominica, before going on to St Lucia and then Trinidad.

Next stop is Margarita Island and a shore excursion to La Restinga Lagoon, followed by the pristine paradise of Bonaire Island, and then an overnight stay in Curaçao's charming capital, Willemstad.

After Aruba, *Minerva* sails to Colombia, before the cruise concludes in Cartagena.

The 15-day *Caribbean Colonial Trails* cruise departing Barbados on 21 December 2015 starts from £3,400pp.

## BEAUTY OF THE CHILEAN FJORDS

A 12-day cruise beginning with Chiloé Island and Castro. Sail through the Chilean fjords to Punta Arenas. Discover Ushuaia and Puerto Chacabuco. Next, sail to Puerto Montt, gateway to Chile's Lake District. Discover the Petrohue Waterfalls, before sailing into Valparaíso, the second largest city in Chile.

The *Beauty of the Chilean Fjords* cruise departs Valparaíso on 1 February 2016 with Saver Fares starting from £2,299pp.

## TIMELESS SOUTH AMERICA

Your adventure begins in the historic Chilean city of Valparaíso, gateway to Chile's central valley, and its capital, Santiago.

In Arica, visit Lauca National Park, home to snow-topped volcanoes and hot springs, then sail north to the Peruvian port of General San Martín. Spend two nights in Callao, gateway to Lima, 'City of Kings', before sailing to fascinating Guayaquil, the largest and most populous city in Ecuador.

The 15-day *Timeless South America* cruise departs Valparaíso on 19 February 2016 with Saver Fares starting from £1,799pp.



Visit [swanhellenic.com](http://swanhellenic.com), call **01858 414 001** or contact your travel agent for more information.

*Facing page:*  
Quantum's  
North Star  
pod. *This page:*  
Waterfront  
night view  
of Pudong,  
Shanghai



# QUANTUM OF CHINA

Royal Caribbean's first smart ship is now sailing from Shanghai.

**Liz Jarvis** joins a five-day cruise to Japan



M

y son is hanging upside down in a giant plastic tube, his arms outstretched as

he learns how to fly for the first time. Below us, several would-be surfers are experiencing total wipe out on the FlowRider, while a few steps away, just past the giant pink polar bear known as Felicia, brightly-coloured dodgems are whizzing around. When you consider that we're in the middle of the East China Sea, it's pretty mind-blowing.

Our Asian adventure began in Shanghai: with its extraordinary skyscrapers, straight out of *Blade Runner*, it's both intriguing and intimidating. We were both overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of pedestrians as we made our way (slowly, there is no other way) along the Bund, the main street, to Yuyuan Garden and through the noisy, chaotic and smelly Old City, with its proliferation of tourist shops and food stalls.

For my son, who had never been to Asia before, it was a bit of a culture shock, but the advantage of our cruise itinerary was that it also took us to Japan, which has a different vibe, without having to get on another plane.

The first port of call in Japan was Nagasaki. We were there the day after the 70th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb, and at 'Ground Zero', where there's a monument to mark the point of detonation, we found schoolchildren paying their respects to the 70,000 who died, chanting prayers and laying wreaths in the shadow of the remains of the Urakami Cathedral. There were colourful murals created by children lining the nearby canal bank, with messages of peace and hope, and vibrant origami peace garlands everywhere,

## OUR ADVENTURE BEGAN IN SHANGHAI: WITH ITS EXTRAORDINARY SKYSCRAPERS, STRAIGHT OUT OF BLADE RUNNER, IT'S BOTH INTRIGUING AND INTIMIDATING

many made from paper cranes, the Japanese symbol of peace.

Inside the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum we explored the excellent exhibition detailing not only what happened to this port city on 9 August 1945 and the horrendous aftermath, but also the history of nuclear weapons. The museum is controversial for that reason, but whatever your beliefs it's still engrossing and well worth visiting.

We also walked to the Peace Park, with its memorials from around the world, and hiked up to the Sanno Shrine, half decimated by the bomb; the other half is still standing.

Our experience in Nagasaki was a thought-provoking journey into military history, but the following day we were able to experience a different side of Japanese culture in the city of Fukuoka.

Again we decided to do our own thing – remarkably easy to do as the ports on our itinerary were so close to everything. We began the day by taking a taxi to the Kushida-jinja, a spectacular Shinto shrine located right in the middle of the town, before walking and window shopping our way to the beautiful Ohori Park, home to

the remains of the castle as well as the rather impressive art museum which has works by Dali and Lichtenstein, among others. We ended our day on the beach – manmade, but still a fabulous stretch of golden sand.

With three days at sea this gave us ample time to experience everything that *Quantum of the Seas* has to offer. I had first sailed on the ship on its inaugural voyage from Southampton, and before we flew to Shanghai someone warned me that it would have been altered quite a lot for the Chinese market. While there are some minor changes – signs are now translated into Chinese, and sadly stage show *Mamma Mia!* hasn't made the transition – the ship is still quintessentially the same, and there's an unexpected bonus – the Chinese aren't massive cocktail-drinkers so it's incredibly easy to get served at the bars, even by the robot bartenders. The service is still the same excellent quality, the fabulous works of art are still intact. In fact the only real difference perhaps is at the included restaurants – the American Icon Grill, for example, now features only a few 'American' dishes. The rest are Chinese.

Where *Quantum* (and sister ship *Anthem of the Seas*) excel, however, are with their speciality dining options, and I was delighted to find that the Wonderland experience (cover charge \$45) was unchanged, still offering the same theatrical ambience (even if there was no candy floss available for my Cotton Candytini cocktail, it was still delicious). Every course was exquisite, particularly the melt-in-the-mouth pork shank, and my personal favourite, the Crispy Tempura Kim Chee Leaves, which hail from Korea.

At Izumi, the onboard Japanese restaurant, the sushi was fresh and expertly presented. ►►

**Clockwise, from top left:** Quantum's robot bartenders; the bright lights of Shanghai's Nanjing Road; a statue at the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum; tea house at the Yuyuan Garden; books at an antiques market; the Kushida Shrine; sushi at Izumi; Quantum's climbing wall; Felicia; stunning artwork





## ON OUR FINAL AFTERNOON WE TOOK A TRIP ON THE NORTH STAR POD, FOR SPECTACULAR VIEWS OF THE SHIP AND THE EAST CHINA SEA

I was particularly intrigued, though, to try Jamie's Italian on *Quantum*; I was told that Jamie Oliver isn't yet a household name in China so the Chinese guests will come to this restaurant for the opportunity to eat Italian food rather than because it's food created by a celebrity chef. The quality hasn't been compromised in any way – it's still exactly the same standard as you'd expect at Jamie's Italian on land. My crab spaghetti was delicious, as was my son's penne carbonara (he even ate the wilted leeks).

We also dined at Coastal Kitchen, exclusively for suite guests, where again the service was impeccable and the food very good (particularly the fig and prosciutto flatbread and caramelised scallops). But one of the most delightful changes to *Quantum* to reflect its new itinerary and appeal to the largely Chinese-clientele – and an advantage of Royal Caribbean's partnership with Dreamworks – is the addition of the Kung Fu Panda noodle bar. All dishes are very reasonably priced (from \$2); I definitely recommend the char siu buns (soft and fluffy and filled with pork), which are as good as any you'll find on mainland China or Japan.

We were some of the only English-speaking guests on board, and everywhere we went the crew were genuinely delighted to see us and made us feel welcome. In

a way, though, being in the middle of so many Chinese-speaking passengers made the experience feel much more authentic. While there were a few confusing moments – mostly at embarkation and disembarkation, where it was incredibly noisy and few people understood us – everything else was remarkably straightforward. Although I don't think the other guests had quite got the hang of the bumper cars; they seemed intent on avoiding each other, rather than trying to go into the back of each other.

### GETTING THERE

A five-night cruise on *Quantum of the Seas*, departing Shanghai on 30 December 2015, starts from £594pp, cruise only, based on two sharing an interior stateroom, including all meals and entertainment on board. For more info visit [royalcaribbean.co.uk](http://royalcaribbean.co.uk) or call 0844 493 3033.

Virgin Holidays Cruises offers a package from £1,519pp, based on two adults sharing an inside cabin, including return flights from London (go to [virginholidayscruises.co.uk](http://virginholidayscruises.co.uk) or call 0344 488 3084). Don't forget you will need a visa for China.

On our final afternoon we took a trip on the North Star pod, for spectacular views of the ship and the East China sea.

We ended our cruise as we began, in Shanghai. With 24 hours before our very comfortable Virgin Atlantic flights home we had more time to explore. We took a trip via the psychedelic Bund Sightseeing Tunnel over to Pudong, home to all those skyscrapers, and also enjoyed seeing the city at night, when it's at its sparkly best. It was a balmy evening and as well as the crowds transfixed by the lights, there were countless brides dressed in red satin, posing for photos with their grooms-to-be. We both left with a greater appreciation of Chinese culture and yes, a new-found affection for Shanghai.

Is it worth the 12-hour flight to Shanghai to take a cruise on *Quantum of the Seas*? Definitely. Either as an introduction to Asia, or for the chance to experience two very different countries on one trip, I can't recommend it highly enough. And as the legendary Kung Fu Panda himself might say, there is no charge for awesomeness. 🐼

**Go online:** You can read a review of *Quantum of the Seas* at [cruise-international.com/quantum-of-the-seas-review/](http://cruise-international.com/quantum-of-the-seas-review/)

**Above, from left:** Quantum's Kung Fu Panda noodle bar; a Shanghai bride looks out towards Pudong; a view of bustling Nanjing Road shopping district

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*A place to fall in love*



Haeundae Beach

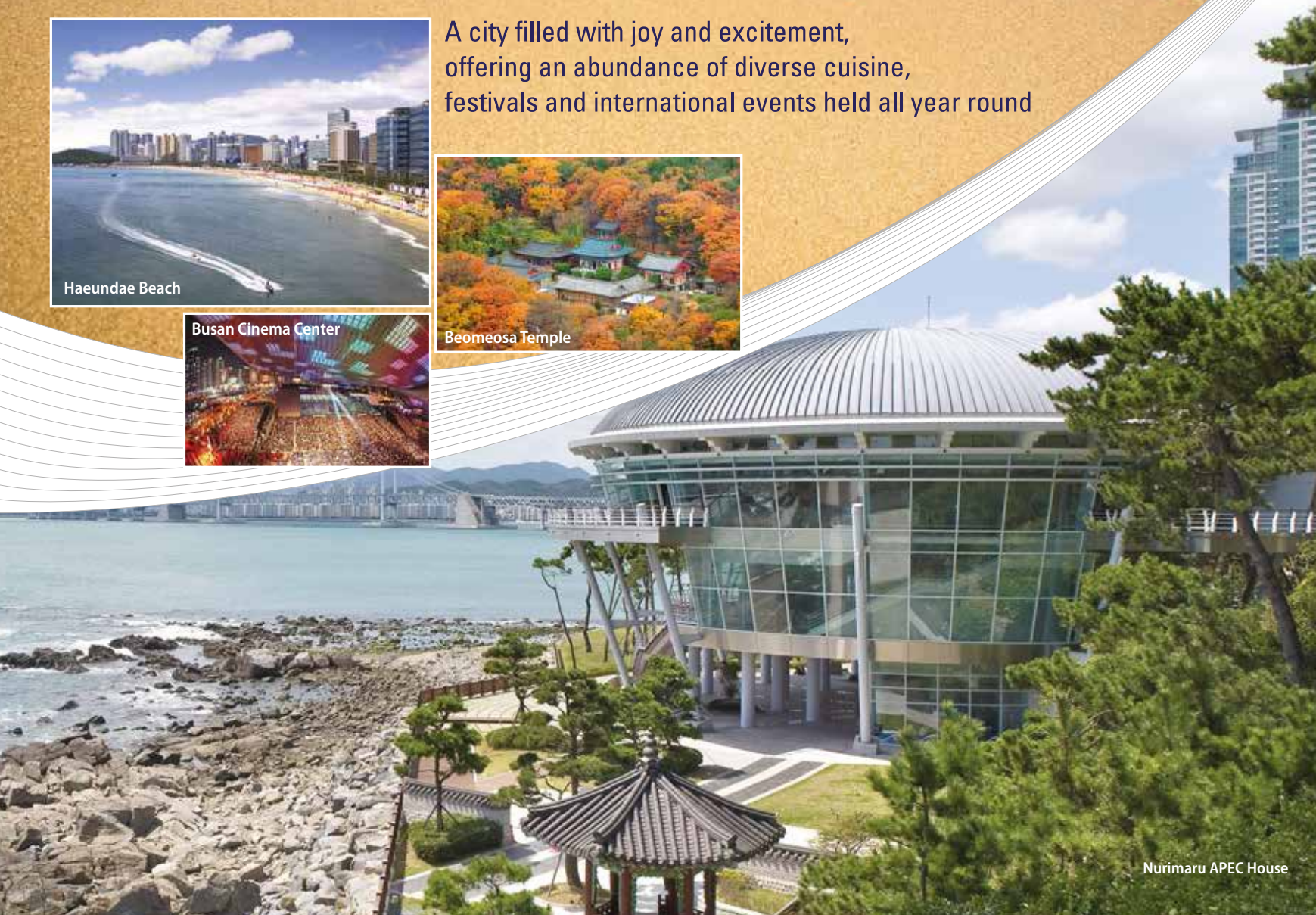
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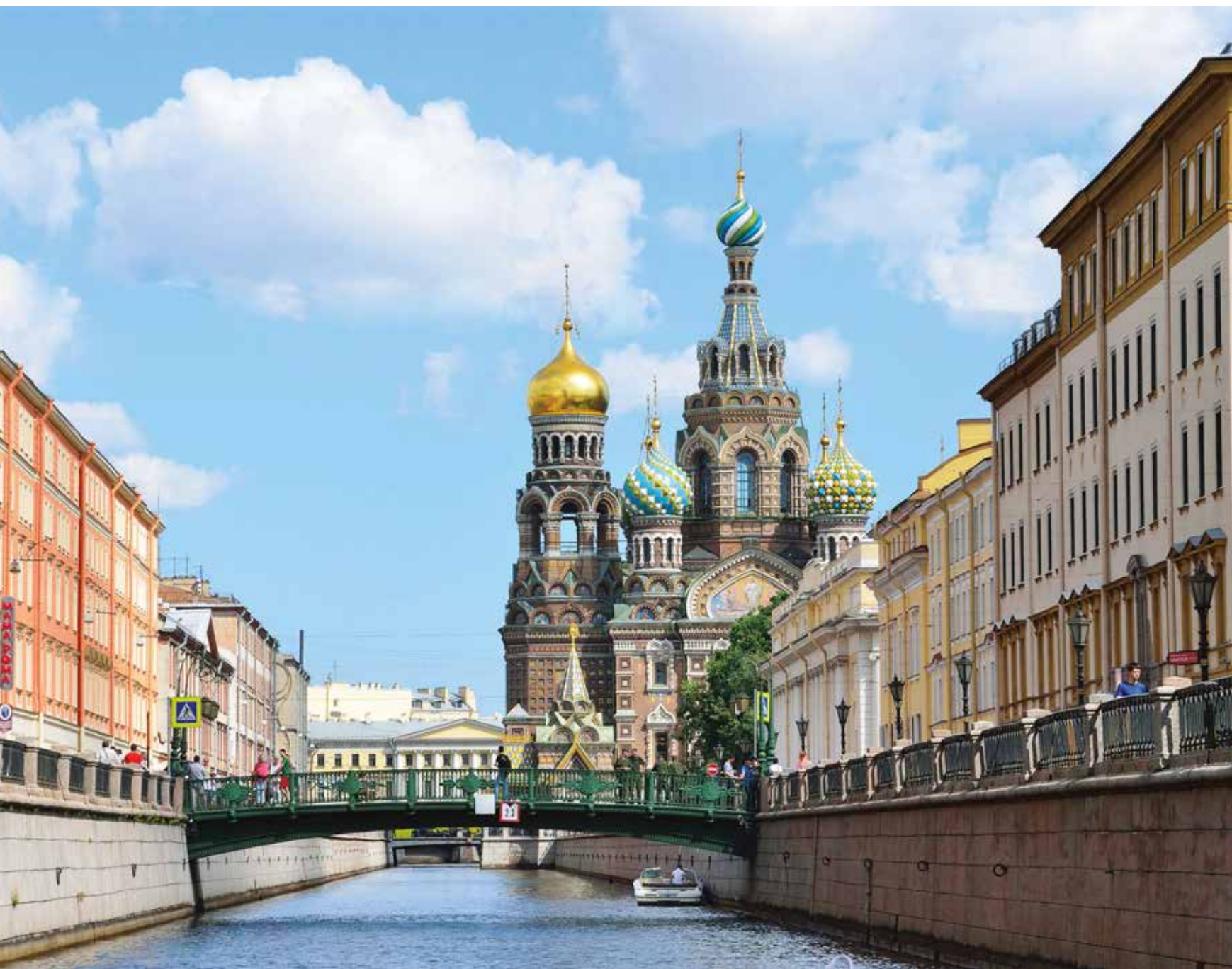
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# Baltic *cruises* 2016

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Fairy tale spires, glittering palaces and cutting edge style  
– a Baltic ocean cruise or Russian river cruise will take you on an unforgettable adventure says **Deborah Stone**

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Think Baltic cruise and most people don't get much past St Petersburg, the classical Russian city with its ornate Winter Palace and extraordinary art collection in the Hermitage museum. St Petersburg is a must-see on any Baltic voyage, usually for a two or three-day stay, yet there are a wealth of other destinations to discover; some cruises take in a clutch of other East European nations (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland), there's usually at least a touch of Scandi style and sometimes even a look at the fjords.



## EAST MEETS EAST

While three full days in St Petersburg is the highlight of this voyage on Oceania Cruises' elegant East Coast American-style ship *Marina*, there are other fascinating Eastern European ports to explore. Almost unvisited by cruise ships is Klaipeda, Lithuania's third largest city, where towers from the Middle Ages abound and Smiltyne Beach is a charming getaway. You also explore Gdansk in Poland, a place of intricate medieval beauty despite being known for its shipyards, and equally ornate Tallinn in Estonia. A Scandinavian section features the Norwegian capital, Oslo.

**GETTING THERE:** Oceania Cruises (0845 505 1920/ [oceaniacruises.com](http://oceaniacruises.com)) has a 12-day *Stockholm to Amsterdam* cruise on *Marina* on 3 September 2016, from £3,349pp (two sharing) including flights.

## HISTORY AND HERITAGE

One of the rarer ports of call on a Baltic itinerary is Gdansk; here you get a day to explore the 1,000-year-old Polish shipbuilding city. This includes Solidarity Square, paying homage to the dockworkers who formed the trade union in 1970 that heralded the fall of the Iron Curtain. This Princess Cruises' trip on smart *Emerald Princess* heads all the way from Southampton to St Petersburg and back with a host of classic stops (Tallinn, Helsinki, Stockholm) as well as Zebrugge for the pretty medieval Belgian city of Bruges.

**GETTING THERE:** Princess Cruises (0843 374 2401/ [princess.com](http://princess.com)) has a 14-day *Baltic Heritage* cruise from Southampton on *Emerald Princess* on 4 June and 9 July 2016, from £1,599pp (two sharing).

## MIDNIGHT FUN

Celebrity Cruises' stylishly revamped *Celebrity Eclipse* does the full Baltic tour from Southampton. There are two days in St Petersburg and some midnight departures (Copenhagen, Warnemünde) so you can have dinner on board and still hop off to sample the nightlife. And there's nothing quite like sitting on *Eclipse's* real lawn as you sail into picturesque ports such as Stockholm.

**GETTING THERE:** Celebrity ([celebritycruises.co.uk](http://celebritycruises.co.uk)/ 0844 493 2043) has a 14-night *Scandinavia and Russia* cruise from Southampton on *Celebrity Eclipse* on 22 May 2016, from £1,299pp (two sharing).

## FJORDS ESCAPE

This three-week dream trip with Seabourn has a Baltic finale with three days in St Petersburg, along with visits to Tallinn and Helsinki, but you get a grand tour of the fjords first. *Seabourn Quest*, small ➤

**Clockwise from far left:** A winding street in Tallinn Old Town, Estonia; a statue outside the Royal Palace, Oslo, Norway; street signpost in Tallinn; traditional Norwegian bread loaves

## EXPLORE GDANSK IN POLAND, A PLACE OF INTRICATE MEDIEVAL BEAUTY, AND EQUALLY ORNATE TALLINN IN ESTONIA

and contemporary, follows the Norwegian coast all the way from its southern tip to the North Cape, Europe's northernmost point, for a visit to the pretty town of Honningsvåg. In between you sail Sognefjord and Trollfjord, visit the Lofoten Islands, the city of Tromsø, and take little inflatable Zodiac boats to get close to the birdlife on craggy Storstappen Island.

**GETTING THERE:** Seabourn (0843 373 2000/seabourn.com) has a 21-day *Scandinavia & St Petersburg* cruise from Copenhagen to Stockholm on *Seabourn Quest* on 28 May and 25 June 2016, from £8,479pp (two sharing), cruise only.

### SCANDI COOL

Sail on *Viking Star*, in Scandi-style all-inclusive small ship luxury, on a trip that does Scandinavia proud (Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland) alongside Baltic gems. There are two days in St Petersburg, a day in the Polish city of Gdansk and Tallinn in Estonia. Sightseeing tours are included in every stop, such as the trip to Berlin from the German port of Warnemünde with its jaunty seaside atmosphere.

**GETTING THERE:** Viking Cruises (0800 298 9700/vikingcruises.co.uk) has a 15-day *Viking Homelands* cruise from Bergen to Stockholm on *Viking Star* on regular dates from 1 May 2016, from £4,499pp (two sharing) including flights and excursions.

### GOLF AND SAIL

Yes, you get to do the Hermitage and other wonders of the world, but this trip also lets you tee off on five of Europe's great golf courses. There's Ian Woosnam's International near Amsterdam, the Robert Trent Jones II-designed Scandinavian near Copenhagen, Hirsala Golf Club in Helsinki, Estonian Golf and Country Club in Tallinn and Sweden's Bro Hof Slott.



PHOTOS © ISTOCK AMANDA WESTERBOM/MEDIA BANK VISITSTOCKHOLM.COM



Azamara Club Cruises' mid-size ship luxury trip includes two nights and three days in St Petersburg plus nights in Amsterdam and Stockholm, and an included AzAmazing Evening cultural event on one of the stops.

**GETTING THERE:** Azamara Club Cruises (0844 493 4016/azamarclubcruises.com) has a 12-night London to *Baltic Voyage (Golf)* cruise from Southampton to Stockholm on *Azamara Quest* on 11 June 2016, from £3,112pp (two sharing), all-inclusive, cruise only. Golf package £1,652pp, including transfers, lunch, drinks and parties.

## LUXURY VOYAGE

This voyage combines sheer indulgence (*Regent Seven Seas' Voyager* is one of the most luxurious cruise ships to be built) with an intellectual edge, right in the heart of the Baltic. It's run in conjunction with the Smithsonian, with an expert speaker on the area from the University of Washington, Seattle. You get a full immersion in the region with three full days in St Petersburg, visits to Klaipeda in Lithuania, Tallinn in Estonia and even Riga in Latvia, with its historic UNESCO World Heritage Site centre rich in Art Nouveau architecture.

**GETTING THERE:** Regent Seven Seas Cruises (02380 682 280/rssc.com) has a 10-night *Copenhagen to Stockholm* cruise on *Seven Seas Voyager* on 12 September 2016, from £5,199pp (two sharing), all-inclusive, including flights and excursions. »

**Clockwise from top left:** Window with hollyhock, Copenhagen, Denmark; summer in Norway; a traditional wooden Dala horse, Sweden; pierogi, traditional Polish cuisine; Tallinn Old Town



**Above:** Mountain meets sea at Geirangerfjord, Norway. **Facing page:** Helsinki Cathedral, Finland

## SECRET ROUTE

This Holland America Line cruise on *MS Prinsendam* is like heading to the Baltic by the back door. Leaving Amsterdam you head north up the coast then down the River Elbe, cruising past charming villages, little

beaches and grand hotels. There are two nights in Hamburg, with its excellent waterfront full of museums, bars and galleries, before a day passing through the 60-mile Kiel Canal. You emerge at Travemünde (for a visit to the medieval German city of Lubeck) before heading on to Tallinn and a two-day stop in St Petersburg. And you get to do a sweep of Scandinavia on the way back.

**GETTING THERE:** Holland America Line (0843 374 2300/ [hollandamerica.com](http://hollandamerica.com)) has a 14-night *Kiel Canal and Baltic Explorer* cruise on *MS Prinsendam* on 2 June 2016, from Amsterdam, from £2,300pp (two sharing), including flights.

## OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Join Saga Cruises and discover the charming Latvian city of Ventspils, where you can wander along the beachfront promenade, or visit the secret former Soviet spy complex at Irbene, with its huge antenna. Along with this unusual port of call there are stops in Tallinn and Gdansk, two days in St Petersburg, plus Germany's Baltic UNESCO-listed city of Wismar with its stunning Gothic architecture and the historic port of Kiel. Not forgetting beautiful Scandinavian cities Helsinki in Finland and Stockholm in Sweden, too. *Saga Sapphire* is a classic mid-size ship and there's always a shuttle bus to take you into town if you want to explore on your own.

**GETTING THERE:** Saga Cruises (0800 096 0079/ [travel.saga.co.uk](http://travel.saga.co.uk)) has a 15-night *Best of the Baltic* cruise departing from Dover on *Saga Sapphire* on 8 September 2016, from £2,839pp (two sharing), including wine with dinner and UK travel to and from port.

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO...

On a Baltic ocean cruise you don't need to have a Russian visa as long as you only get off in St Petersburg as part of an organised excursion; if you want to explore on your own you must have arranged a Russian visa before you leave the UK.

If you're on a Russian river cruise you must have a visa in order to take the holiday.

A single entry tourist visa lasting 30 days is available through a number of agencies including the Russian National Tourist Office (RNTO), costing £150-£200 depending on the agency and service level. The RNTO, 70 Piccadilly, London, W1J 8HP (020 7495 7570/ [uk.russianvisa.net](http://uk.russianvisa.net)), has a list of these on its website, and most cruise companies offer a service at time of booking. However, regulations instigated in late 2014 mean that everyone has to report to official centres in London or Edinburgh for fingerprinting



PHOTOS © ISTOCK

## NORDIC TREASURES

Two cruises in one from Norwegian Cruise Line, with a couple of days in the Baltic (St Petersburg, Tallinn, Helsinki) along with a decent helping of fjords. Calls at Geiranger, Bergen and Alesund open up Geirangerfjord (possibly the most dramatic) and other spectacular stretches of coast. After the fjords you return to Copenhagen for a day before entering the Baltic.

GETTING THERE: Norwegian Cruise Line (0845 201 8900/ncl.co.uk) has a 16-night *Norwegian Fjords & Baltic Capitals* cruise from Copenhagen on *Norwegian Star* on 1 May 2016, from £1,516pp (two sharing), including flights.

## FULL DAYS

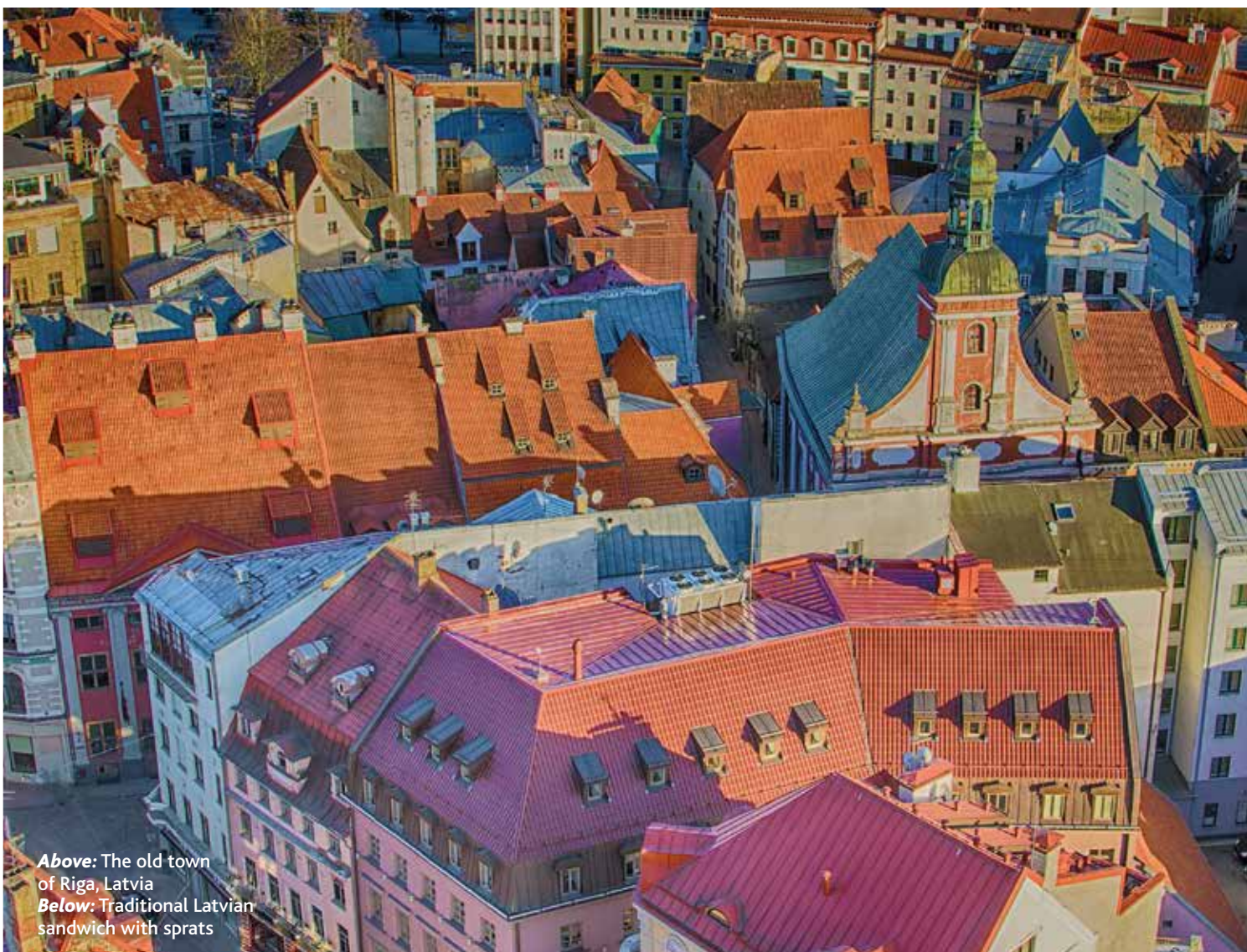
Most cruises to the Baltic tend to be 10 days but this seven-nighter crams in the destinations. Sailing from Stockholm you manage two nights in St Petersburg, plus days in Riga, Tallinn and Helsinki – and only one day at sea. *Serenade of the Seas* is a big, modern Royal Caribbean ship – there's a nine-floor atrium with glass lifts, 16 bars, rock climbing wall and Broadway-style shows.

GETTING THERE: Royal Caribbean (0844 493 4005/royalcaribbean.co.uk) has a 7-day *Scandinavia and Russia* cruise on 10 July 2016 from Stockholm, from £856pp, two sharing, including flights. ►►





**Main image:** The Old Town in Stockholm, Sweden.  
**Above:** Parked bikes in Copenhagen, Denmark



**Above:** The old town of Riga, Latvia  
**Below:** Traditional Latvian sandwich with sprats

## HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

Head across the North Sea on Fred. Olsen Cruise Line's *Balmoral*. There's nearly a full day on a leisurely cruise through the pretty islands of the Stockholm Archipelago and a night in the city. The ship calls in Tallinn before two days in St Petersburg, then Latvia's Riga and Copenhagen on the way home.

**GETTING THERE:** Titan (0800 988 5823/titantravel.co.uk) has a 14-day Fred. Olsen *Baltic Capitals and Stockholm Archipelago* cruise from Newcastle on 30 July 2016, from £1,499pp (two sharing) including £75pp onboard credit and free home pick-up and drop-off service.

## CRUISE BY TRAIN

Combine a cruise with a two-night city break at a four-star hotel in Berlin. After you've seen the sights, you take a first class train to the coast and the port of Warnemünde. Then there's a 14-night cruise on *MSC Opera*, first up the Norwegian coast for a taste of the fjords then back, via Copenhagen, and east to Helsinki, St Petersburg and Tallinn before returning to Berlin.

**GETTING THERE:** Jetline Cruise (0808 102 0231/jetlinecruise.com) has a 16-night *Baltic & Fjords Adventure* weekly from 1 July to 19 August 2016, from £1,749pp (two sharing) including trains and flights.

## DISCOVER THE CHARMING LATVIAN CITY OF VENTSPILS, WHERE YOU CAN WANDER ALONG THE BEACHFRONT PROMENADE



PHOTOS © ISTOCK



# Russia

## RIVER CRUISES

A Russian river cruise gives you the chance to discover more about this fascinating country, with plenty of opportunities to disembark, meet local people and find out more about its fascinating past. Sail between Moscow and St Petersburg on the Volga, the Svir and the Moscow Canal, taking in the country's rural, timeless interior as the ships cross vast lakes and pass through uninhabited plains, skirting medieval villages and passing the onion domes of ancient churches dotting the horizon.




### JEWELS OF RUSSIA

Boutique ship *Scenic Tsar* takes 112 guests and, launched in 2013, is the first new ship on Russia's waterways for more than 25 years. Scenic's *Jewels of Russia* cruise includes four days each in Moscow (with visits to St Basil's Basilica and the Kremlin) and St Petersburg. Scenic's included Enrich excursions take in Moscow's Museum of Cosmonautics with the chance to meet a cosmonaut, and a private ballet concert at the majestic Palace of Prince Vladimir in St Petersburg.

GETTING THERE: Scenic ([scenic.co.uk/08081020100](http://scenic.co.uk/08081020100)) has a 15-day all-inclusive *Jewels of Russia* cruise on 12 June and 10 July from £5,390pp, based on two sharing, including excursions and flights.

### WATERWAYS OF THE TSARS

Three Viking River Cruises ships sail the Volga, all smart and stylish with plenty of balcony rooms. There are three days at either end of its Russian itineraries to enjoy St Petersburg and Moscow properly. Like other cruises there are calls at Uglich and Yaroslavl, Golden Ring cities that preserve Moscow's history, but there's also a visit to the Kuzino, a traditional village near the 14th-century Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery, which was once the largest monastery in Northern Russia.

GETTING THERE: Viking River Cruises (0800 319 66 60/[vikingrivercruises.co.uk](http://vikingrivercruises.co.uk)) has a 13-day *Waterways of the Tsars* cruise regularly from May to October on Viking Longships *Akun*, *Ingvar* and *Truvor*, from £2,595pp (two sharing) including wine with dinner, excursions and flights.

### GOLDEN RING CITIES SUCH AS YAROSLAVL PRESERVE MOSCOW'S HISTORY

### THE IMPERIAL WATERWAYS

Enjoy several days moored in both Moscow and St Petersburg with Uniworld, enjoying included city and walking tours that take in everything from Moscow's ornate Metro system to St Petersburg's Winter Palace. You leave the River Volga for a detour on Lake Onega to visit Kizhi Island with its collection of wooden churches, including the huge Transfiguration Church, built without a single nail. Uniworld's River Victoria has all outside cabins, many with balconies, and a restaurant serving classic and local cuisine.

GETTING THERE: Uniworld in conjunction with Titan (0800 988 5823/[titantravel.co.uk](http://titantravel.co.uk)) has a 14-day *Imperial Waterways of Russia* cruise from £4,299pp (two sharing) with regular departures from May on *River Victoria*, including wine with meals and Home Departure Service pick-up and drop-off. 🚢

**Clockwise from top left:** Spasskaya Tower of Moscow Kremlin; a Moscow mule cocktail; Saint Isaac's Cathedral interior, St Petersburg; a Moscow subway station

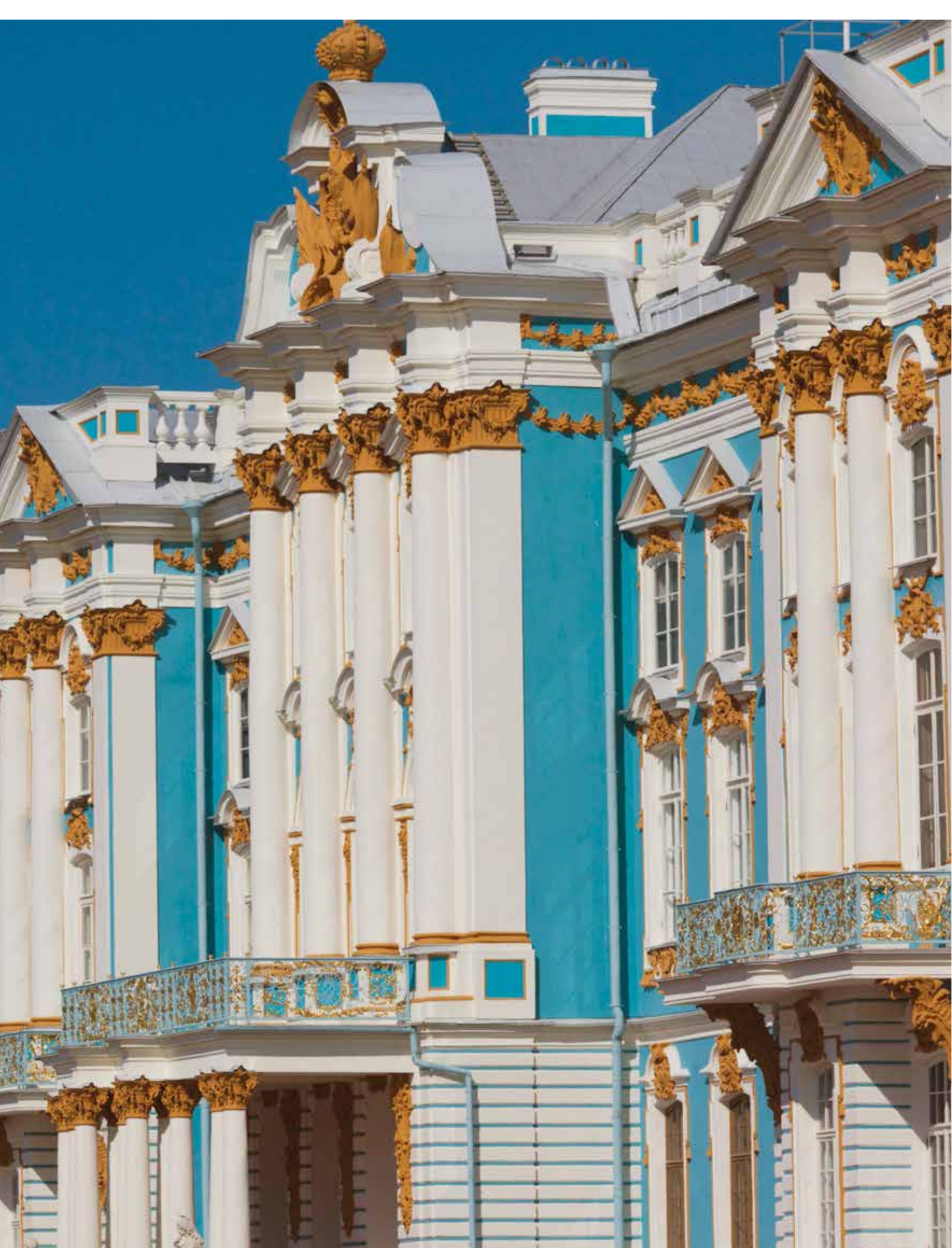
**Go online:** To read more including Baltic cruise reviews go to [cruise-international.com](http://cruise-international.com)

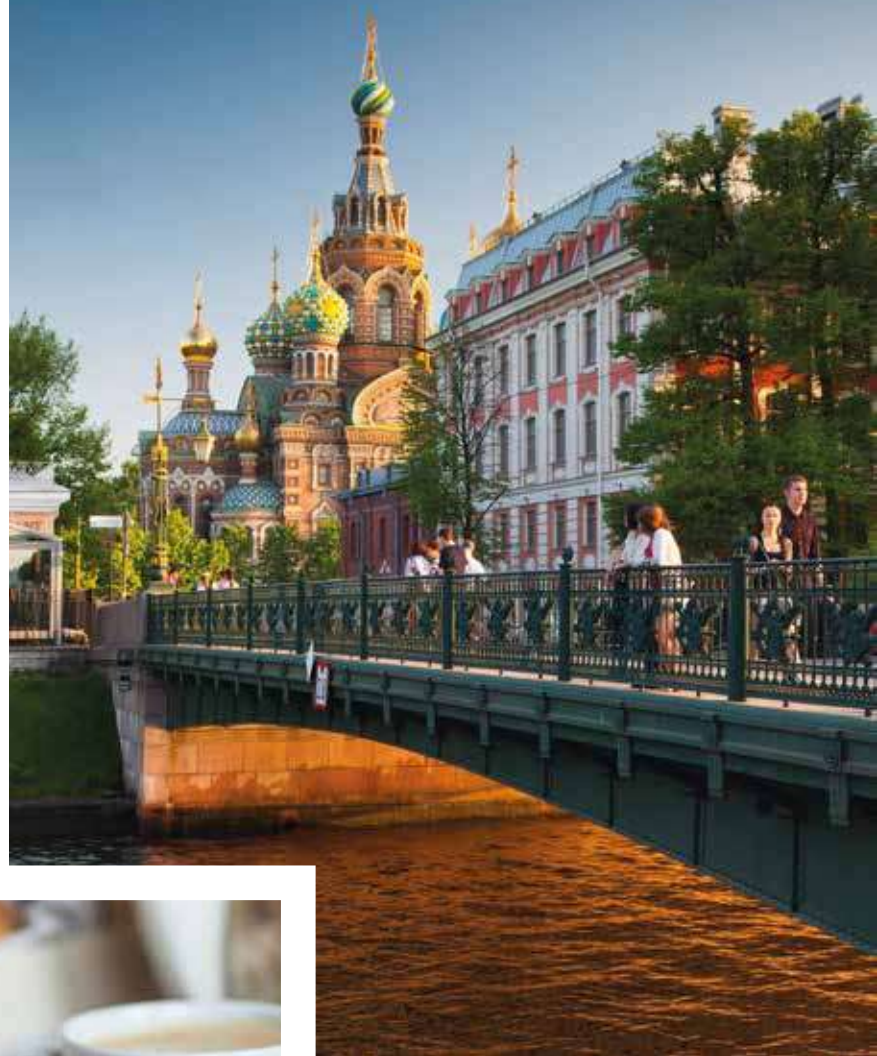




# *Russian* PRINCESS

An itinerary that takes you to the fairy tale capitals of Europe on one of Princess Cruises' most glamorous ships is an enchanting experience, says **Liz Jarvis**





**From left to right:** Royal Princess' sparkling atrium; korvapuusti, a Finnish cinnamon roll; Church of the Saviour of Spilled Blood, St Petersburg; Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Tallinn; the Sanctuary on board Royal Princess; Saint Isaac's Cathedral, St Petersburg; Havis Amanda fountain, Helsinki

The bright orange of the midnight sun streams through the enormous windows of the Catherine Palace as we're invited to make our way into the Grand Ballroom, with its opulent white and gold décor, chandeliers and mirrors.

Waiters welcome us with glasses of Champagne as we take our seats for a performance of classical music by a superb string quartet.

Suddenly there's a fanfare of trumpets and we rise to our feet. The Emperor and Empress have arrived, resplendent in their intricately embroidered evening attire. There is a respectful silence as they gesture for us to sit, and then the musicians start playing again and the dancing begins.

For a few magical moments we can imagine what it was like to live

in Imperial Russia and be invited to a ball in the presence of Catherine the Great; if we weren't wearing brown paper slippers to protect the parquet floors and everyone wasn't taking photos on their mobile phones and iPads, the fantasy would be complete.

Our evening at the Catherine Palace, one of Princess Cruises' Discovery Exclusive experiences, is just one of the highlights of our Baltic cruise on board *Regal Princess*.

With its glittering atrium and elegant, contemporary vibe, the ship – sister to *Royal Princess*, named by the Duchess of Cambridge – is the perfect vessel for a Baltic itinerary calling at the magical fairy tale capitals of Eastern Europe.

Although we don't spend much time in our comfortable balcony stateroom it has everything we could

possibly need, with ample outside space to admire the non-setting sun and superb scenery.

On our sea day we head to the Sanctuary, where everyone is made to feel like royalty. Every whim is catered for: cocktails, afternoon tea (complimentary, with a mouth-watering selection of sandwiches and cakes), iPods, blankets in case we feel a little chilly – although it's actually exceptionally warm. If we want to take a dip in the adults-only Retreat pool and hot tubs they're right next door; it's incredibly difficult to tear ourselves away.

Throughout our cruise the food on board *Regal Princess* is excellent – not just in the speciality restaurants (although the Italian food at Sabatini's and the steaks at the Crown Grill are superb) but in the main restaurants, too. Service is at all times excellent – unobtrusive but also anticipatory.

The entertainment, too, is first class, and while we never quite make it into the Princess Live! TV studio or theatre, after dinner each evening we enjoy listening to the live music on offer at venues all round the ship, including the fabulous Ian Ross Jazz Trio at the Wheelhouse Bar who attract a very enthusiastic crowd.



blue-painted architecture of this very chic city is stunning.

The real highlight of our cruise, though, is St Petersburg, where we join a small private tour of the Hermitage in the company of a guide who is so knowledgeable and entertaining she brings every painting and sculpture to life. We see priceless works of art by the likes of Michelangelo, Canaletto, Goya and Rembrandt, and exquisite ceiling frescoes.

We also take an afternoon cruise along the Neva, arguably the most beautiful river in Europe. Someone had the foresight to decide that no one could build high rise buildings along its banks, so instead it's still lined with the magnificent former homes of the Russian aristocracy as well as landmarks including the Winter Palace and Peter and Paul Cathedral, and on a sunny afternoon it's absolutely glorious. We detour along the canals, giving us a closer view of the mansions and gardens, before disembarking at the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood, with its intriguing brightly coloured onion-domed turrets. »



PHOTOS © GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK/WALTER BIBIKOWAWL IMAGES

Sailing from Warnemünde to Stockholm, we experience some of the Baltic's most beautiful and memorable destinations; the beauty of this itinerary is that with the exception of St Petersburg, where you have to join an escorted tour unless you've already applied for a visa, all the ports of call are very easy to explore on your own.

In tiny Tallinn, Estonia, we stroll around the medieval town with its cobbled streets and chocolate box cottages, and visit the museum, home to a moving exhibition on life under Soviet occupation.

It's raining when we arrive in Helsinki, Finland, but we enjoy a coffee and traditional korvapuusti (cinnamon bun) in the 140-year-old Kappeli café, and a stroll to the harbour, past the Finnish capital's palace and town hall. Even in the grey drizzle the vanilla, ochre and ice



The chance to spend our night in Russia exploring the incredible Catherine Palace after hours, however, with only guests from our ship, is really something very special.

As we arrive at the entrance with its magnificent rococo blue, white and gold stucco façade and red carpeted steps we're welcomed with warm blinis and chilled vodka shots. Inside, after putting on our paper slippers, we take time to admire the glorious rooms of the palace. With no crowds we can take our time walking around, soaking up the

**Top:** The gilded Amber Room at Catherine Palace, St Petersburg;  
**Above:** The Grotto Pavilion reflecting in the Great Pond, Catherine Park

## FOR A FEW MAGICAL MOMENTS WE CAN IMAGINE WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO LIVE IN IMPERIAL RUSSIA

### GETTING THERE

An 11-night *Scandinavia & Russia* cruise on *Regal Princess* departing from Copenhagen, Denmark on 1 May 2016 costs from £1,399pp round-trip, cruise only, based on two adults sharing an inside stateroom. Ports of call include Oslo, Norway; Berlin (Warnemünde), Germany; Tallinn, Estonia; St Petersburg, Russia (overnight); Helsinki, Finland and Stockholm, Sweden. The Evening at Catherine Palace costs from £199.95pp. For more info visit [princess.com/go](http://princess.com/go) or call 0843 374 2401.

atmosphere and every intricate detail. Many of the rooms have a different musician playing, including a violinist whose performance is absolutely mesmerising, and a young woman playing the harpsichord.

We enter the exquisite Amber Room in silence, marvelling at the incredible panels with their astounding intricate detail. While it's not the original Amber Room – this was looted by the Germans during the Second World War and then disappeared without trace – it's still an impressive sight.

After the beautiful display of ballroom dancing we're taken outside for another rousing performance by the Royal Guards Orchestra. Although it's late the palace grounds are lit by the sun, and everyone starts dancing to the brass band. It's a wonderful finale to an unforgettable excursion and a memorable Baltic adventure. 🇷🇺

**Go online:** To read a review of a first-time Med cruise go to [cruise-international.com/princess-cruises-island-princess-cruise-ship-review/](http://cruise-international.com/princess-cruises-island-princess-cruise-ship-review/)

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# ALASKAN ADVENTURES

Cruise-and-stay experts Iglu Cruise offer a fantastic selection of unforgettable itineraries to the US and Canada



**F**amous for its dramatic landscape and stunning wildlife, Alaska is one of the most breathtaking places on earth. Home to snow capped mountains and icy fjords, it offers an array of exhilarating experiences, from whale and bear watching to dog sledding on glaciers, making it the perfect destination for a cruise-and-stay adventure.

On board your Alaska-bound cruise ship, you'll encounter incredible natural beauty: the Inside Passage – 500 miles of clear blue waters; Icy Strait Point; Mendenhall Glacier; and Mount Juneau.

Iglu Cruise's itineraries allow you to absorb Canada and Alaska's superb scenery and rich culture by ship, rail, coach and even helicopter, with city tours and national park excursions all included in your adventure.

## NIAGARA FALLS, ROCKY MOUNTAINEER & ALASKA FROM TORONTO

**19 nights**

**On board MS Volendam, Holland America  
April – September 2016 departures**

Travel the breadth of Canada before exploring the wonders of Alaska's southeast coastline. Spend three nights in the gleaming city of Toronto, experience the beauty of Niagara Falls then fly to Calgary. In Banff, a helicopter tour will provide spectacular views of the surrounding peaks. Visit Lake Louise and alpine town Jasper before boarding the world famous Rocky Mountaineer for a leisurely journey through breathtaking scenery. After your overnight stay in

Kamloops, enjoy a second day on board Rocky Mountaineer, before spending two nights in Vancouver, then enjoy seven nights on board *MS Volendam* where you'll cruise the Inside Passage and see glaciers at Tracy Arm Fjord, returning to Vancouver before flying back to the UK.

INTERIOR	OCEANVIEW	VISTA SUITE
Free outside upgrade	£3,399pp	£3,999pp

\*prices based on 23 April 2016 departure

## CANADIAN ROCKIES COACH TOUR & ALASKA GLACIER FROM CALGARY

**15 nights**

**On board Nieuw Amsterdam, Holland America  
May – September 2016 departures**

Explore Canada with a seven-night modern coach tour, starting in Calgary and calling at Banff, Kamloops and Whistler, before arriving in the bustling city of Vancouver. Board your ship, *Nieuw Amsterdam*, for a seven-night journey that takes in the Inside Passage, Tracy Arm Fjord, Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay and Ketchikan, before returning to Vancouver and then flying back to the UK.

INTERIOR	OCEANVIEW	VERANDAH
£1,999pp	£2,199pp	£2,499pp

\*prices based on 21 May 2016 departure



### THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

Rocky Mountaineer crosses the Canada Rockies between skyscraper-filled Vancouver to the calmer city of Kamloops and the picturesque town of Banff, passing by forest-lined lakes along the way. Its SilverLeaf Service offers stunning panoramic views, regionally inspired gourmet meals presented at your seat, complimentary alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks throughout your journey, and complimentary luggage delivery to your hotel.



**ROCKY MOUNTAINEER®**

### ROCKY MOUNTAINEER & ALASKA DISCOVERY FROM VANCOUVER

**12 nights**

**On board Celebrity Infinity**

**May – September 2016 departures**

Following a one-night stay in a Vancouver hotel, your Alaskan voyage begins immediately with a luxurious stay on board *Celebrity Infinity* departing Vancouver, Canada for Alaskan picturesque sights Icy Strait Point, Hubbard Glacier, Juneau and Ketchikan. After your cruise, back in Vancouver, you'll board the Rocky Mountaineer for two days and enjoy all-daylight SilverLeaf Service between overnight stops at Kamloops and your final destination Banff – where Mount Rundle and Mount Cascade dominate the skyline, before heading to cosmopolitan Calgary by coach and flying home to the UK.

INTERIOR	OCEANVIEW	BALCONY	CONCIERGE CLASS
£2,499pp	£2,699pp	£2,949pp	£3,199pp

\*prices based on 21 May 2016 departure

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# RED HOT

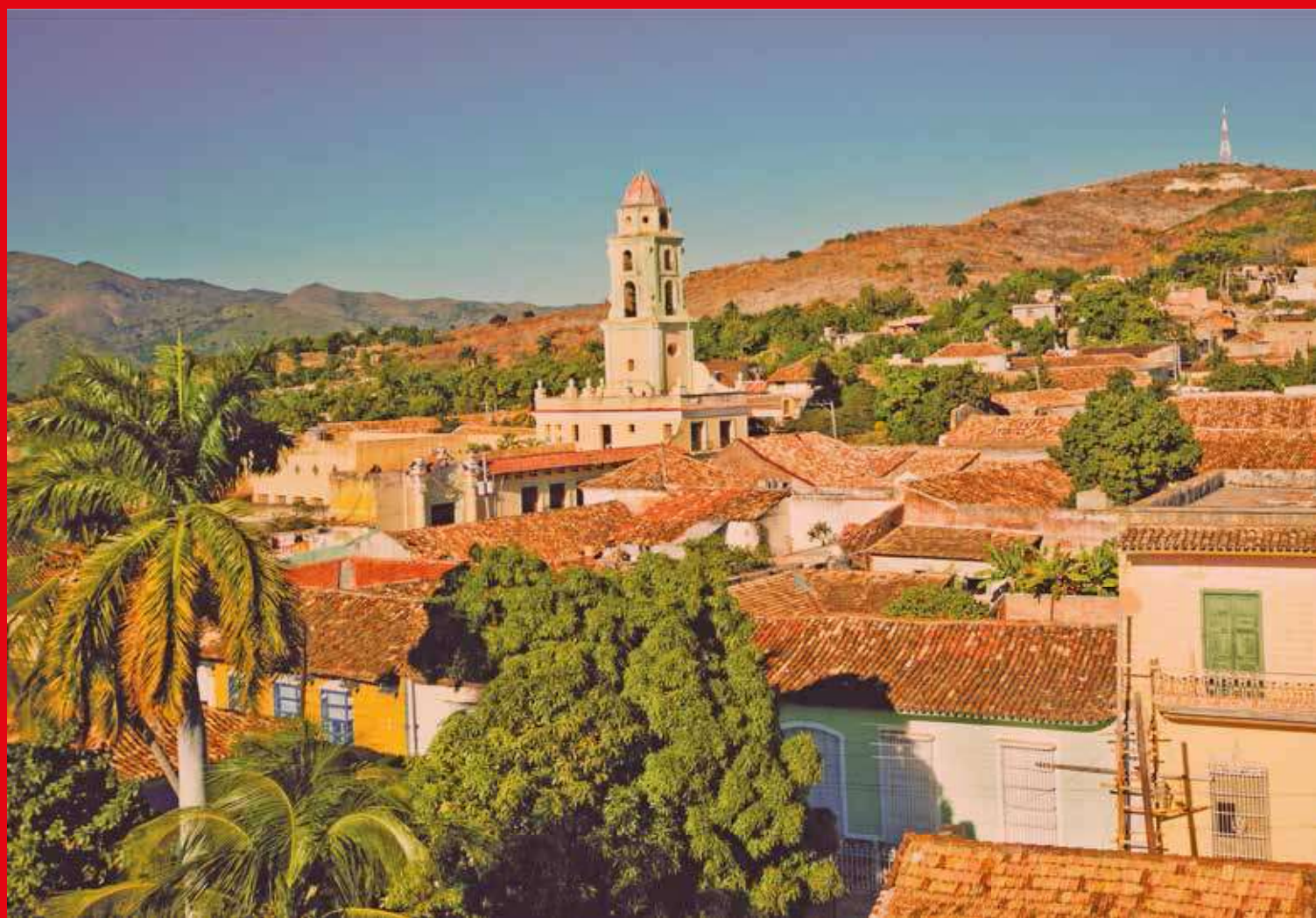


# DESTINATIONS



Want to know where to cruise next year?  
Travel expert **Sara Macefield** selects eight  
of the must-see places for your wishlist

CUBA SOUTH KOREA ANTARCTICA AND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS RIO INDIA HAWAII SEATTLE AFRICA



PHOTOS © ALAMY/ISTOCK

**Facing page:** A red vintage American car parked on a street in Havana.  
**Above:** Rolling hills and rooftops in Trinidad



## CUBA

The Caribbean socialist republic is set to become the hottest destination in the cruising world as relations with America thaw and Cuba moves in from the political wilderness. It's easy to see why. Cuba offers a unique cocktail of Caribbean communism combined with Spanish colonialism, evident in the cool bars and 19th century hotels of Old Havana that were popular haunts of author and hell-raiser Ernest Hemingway. From Santiago de Cuba, the city that gave birth to Fidel Castro's revolution, to the

well-preserved Spanish colonial city of Trinidad, there is much to captivate. The Caribbean's largest island isn't short of natural appeal either, with the rugged Sierra Maestra mountains and a selection of stunning beaches. Get there fast to sample the unique spirit of salsa and revolution before Cuba loses its unique flavour.

**CRUISE LINES THAT GO HERE INCLUDE:** Thomson Cruises, Swan Hellenic, Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, MSC Cruises, Star Clippers, Celestyal Cruises, Carnival Fathom. ►►



*Clockwise, from above:* Colourful woodwork at Deoksugung Palace, Seoul, South Korea; Rio Carnival dancers; glass sculpture by Dale Chihuly, Seattle

## **SOUTH KOREA**

Thousands of years of history and culture, along with a bristling border with notoriously prickly neighbour North Korea, have helped to fuel increasing interest in this Asian nation. South Korea's capital, Seoul, is a bustling powerhouse with vibrant shops and nightlife, while the surrounding mountains hint at the stunning landscapes that await travellers once they go beyond the city limits. Mountains and beaches mark out the port city of Busan;

an intriguing mix of modern and ancient, where Buddhist temples sit in the shadows of modernist high-rise towers. Head for the golden sands of the city's most famous beach, Haeundae, or stride out on one of the numerous hiking routes close to the city.

**CRUISE LINES THAT CALL HERE INCLUDE:** Princess Cruises, Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises, Cunard, Crystal Cruises, Silversea, Oceania Cruises.




## RIO DE JANEIRO

Life is set to get even steamier in this samba-fuelled South American city with its hosting of the 2016 Olympic Games. Not that we need any extra incentives to visit. After all, Rio's attributes are legendary with the iconic statue of Christ the Redeemer overlooking the city from the summit of Corcovado Mountain and the distinctive rounded hump of Sugarloaf Mountain with its unforgettable cable car ride. Joining the Cariocas (as the locals are called) at play on the golden sands of the famous Copacabana and Ipanema beaches is an experience in itself. Rio is a city that knows how to party, and during its annual carnival – arguably the world's most famous street festival – thousands join parades of shimmering samba dancers in a riot of noise and colour. Next year's 31st Olympiad, which runs from 5 to 21 August across four regions of the city – Barra, Copacabana, Deodoro and Maracanã, promises to be another colourful highlight in the world's ultimate party capital, affectionately known as Cidade Maravilhosa, the Marvellous City.

**CRUISE LINES THAT GO HERE INCLUDE:** Princess Cruises, MSC Cruises, Crystal Cruises, P&O, Cunard, Regent Seven Seas Cruises, Cruise & Maritime Voyages, Oceania Cruises.

## SEATTLE

Famously the home of Starbucks and grunge, this atmospheric US city boasts a laidback, small town feel as well as a stunning location on the shores of Puget Sound. In recent times it found fame as home of the fictitious Christian Grey (he of *Fifty Shades* fame), and who can forget its starring role in the romantic comedy *Sleepless in Seattle*? Don't miss Pike Place Market, full of cobblestones and stalls piled high with mouth-watering fruits and fish stands brimming with giant crabs and huge North Pacific salmon. Its collection of cafés serve up tasty fare and fabulous views over the waterfront from where cruise ships depart for sailings to Alaska. But the best vistas are assured from the restaurant and observation deck of the city's most famous attraction, the Space Needle, which cuts a distinctive shape on the skyline where it towers more than 600ft.

**CRUISE LINES THAT GO HERE INCLUDE:** Holland America, Norwegian Cruise Line, Royal Caribbean, Princess Cruises, Carnival Cruise Lines, Oceania Cruises. 





**Above:** Fishing boats in the sea at Cochin

**Facing page:** Wailua Falls, Kauai, Hawaii



## INDIA

The exotic appeal of the subcontinent lends itself to river sailings as well as ocean cruises. Voyages along the Ganges River take visitors deep into India's beating heart to observe the cultures and traditions of Indians who worship in its holy waters, while a cruise along the Brahmaputra River through Assam uncovers ancient ruins, tea estates and the chance to spot tigers and rhinos in the surrounding national parks. On the coast, cruise lines call at a number of ports that showcase the cultural contrasts

of this complex and contradictory country. Take your pick from, among others, frenetic Mumbai, the glamorous home of Bollywood; the evocative spice trading port of Cochin; the hippy beach hangout of Goa, with coastlines stretching along the Arabian Sea; and the southern city of Chennai.

**CRUISE LINES THAT GO HERE INCLUDE:** Azamara Club Cruises, Voyages to Antiquity, Voyages of Discovery, P&O, Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, Seabourn, Cunard, APT, Uniworld, Pandaw.

**HAWAII**

Dream of paradise and you'll probably think of Hawaii – an isolated collection of exotic outposts floating in the balmy waters of the Central Pacific. Hawaii may be America's 50th state, but these lands of 'Aloha' proudly tout their Polynesian heritage that lends an intoxicating ambience to everyday life. Beauty comes naturally on the likes of Kauai, Maui and Hawaii with spectacular volcanic landscapes and the type of tropical beauty that takes your breath away. But there is historical interest too. Not only were the islands discovered by Captain James Cook, a fact which explains why the Union Jack is incorporated into the Hawaiian state flag; but they played a tragically pivotal part in bringing America into the Second World War when the US naval base at Pearl Harbor on Oahu was attacked by Japanese forces – an event that marks its 70th anniversary next year.

**CRUISE LINES THAT GO HERE INCLUDE:** Princess Cruises, Norwegian Cruise Line, Holland America Line, Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises, Carnival Cruise Lines. ►►




## ANTARCTICA AND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

The White Continent remains the ultimate prize for adventurers looking to explore, arguably, the most inaccessible and starkly beautiful place on earth. Towering icebergs, icy cliffs and majestic glaciers form an awe-inspiring backdrop for cruises to the Antarctic Peninsula where the shores are populated with huge colonies of penguins and the waters are rich in marine life with numerous species of whales and seals. Follow the trail of explorers to the remote Weddell Sea where Sir Ernest Shackleton's ship *Endurance* famously became encased in ice a century ago. The Falkland Islands bring a homespun taste of Britain and passengers disembarking at its capital Stanley might see familiar sights, such as traditional red telephone boxes and a selection of pubs, but the island is mainly known for its impressive colonies of penguins, sea lions, seals and albatrosses.

**CRUISE LINES THAT GO HERE INCLUDE:** Silversea Cruises, Seabourn, P&O, Holland America Line, Quark Expeditions, Hurtigruten, G Adventures.

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

The lure of the wild is proving to be a strong call for cruise lines to the coast of South Africa and Namibia where adventures on shore are enlivened by the prospect of seeing lions, elephants and other big game on safari drives. Several game reserves are within reach of ports of call such as Cape Town, Durban and Mossel Bay on the Western Cape. Sitting at the tip of South Africa, Cape Town offers one of the most scenic stops for cruise ships with the famously stunning backdrop of Table Mountain and the picturesque appeal of the surrounding Winelands, while Walvis Bay in Namibia is the location of 4x4 adventures along the remote coastline. Additionally, it is the jumping off point for sailings on one of the world's last remaining mail ships, *RMS St Helena*, to the isolated island of St Helena.

**CRUISE LINES THAT GO HERE INCLUDE:** Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, MSC Cruises, Oceania Cruises, Cunard, Silversea, Regent Seven Seas Cruises, *RMS St Helena*, Voyages to Antiquity. 





# SMALL WONDER

With destinations both off-the-beaten-track and close to home and expert guest speakers on board, Voyages of Discovery offer superb small ship adventure cruises

**T**he Voyages of Discovery experience begins from the moment you step on board their ship, *Voyager*, and feel the warmth in the welcome from the crew and staff of this friendly ship.

You'll discover a comfortable, stylish ship that is a haven of relaxation away from the stresses of modern life. And with no more than 540 passengers, you can easily meet like-minded people to share experiences with, and enjoy a more personal service from *Voyager's* attentive crew.

Days at sea can be spent listening to a fascinating lecture by one of the renowned onboard guest speakers, whose depth of knowledge and passion for their subject will bring each destination alive. You can admire the panoramic views from the Lookout Lounge, read a book while relaxing on one of the comfortable leather sofas in the Library, play a game of bridge or visit the spa. Or, if you prefer, stroll around the spacious Promenade Deck, bask in the sunshine as you sink into a sun lounger, take a refreshing dip in the pool or relax in one of the hot tubs. Whether you prefer relaxing in a quiet corner, keeping fit or pampering yourself in the health and beauty centre, life on board *Voyager* will keep you as busy or as relaxed as you like.

Once you step on shore you'll have the opportunity to explore some of the most fascinating places on earth accompanied by experts who will enrich your experience with in-depth insight into the local history, culture, geography and wildlife.

Experienced planners ensure that *Voyager's* cruises visit off-the-beaten-track destinations – fascinating places that others might pass by, while more established holiday spots

are viewed with a fresh perspective. *Voyager* stays in port longer too, so you can fully explore each destination, and its carefully selected shore excursion programme is exciting and varied, giving you choice and the chance to see what you want to see in places you've always dreamed of visiting.

Back on board, order a pre-dinner cocktail in Scott's Lounge or out on deck as you take in the ocean views and enjoy a chat with your fellow passengers.

With a choice of three restaurants to dine in, you can enjoy a delicious four-course meal in the main Discovery Restaurant, dine al fresco in the Veranda Restaurant as you watch the sun set, or revel in the sophisticated and more intimate atmosphere of the Explorer Club. After dinner, visit the Darwin Lounge to absorb the fantastic programme of live music and entertainment.

*Voyager's* winter season begins by exploring the history and varied cultures of South America, Mexico, Cuba and the Caribbean before returning to the UK for the summer with sailings to Madeira and the Azores, and later Iceland.

## **SOUTH AMERICA'S WILD COAST**

Join *Voyager* in Bridgetown, Barbados. Then it's on to Tobago before arriving in Paramaribo. Later, *Voyager* calls at Île Royale of the Îles du Salut Islands. In Guyana, explore the capital, Georgetown, and then later, immerse yourself in the Port of Spain, Trinidad. Next, visit Margarita Island, before arriving at your final stop, St George's in Grenada.

The 13-day *South America's Wild Coast* cruise departs Barbados on 24 November 2015 with Saver Fares starting from £1,799pp.



## RHYTHMS OF THE CARIBBEAN & CUBA

Travel to the heart of Cuba to explore the crumbling colonial grandeur of Holguín and the evocative city of Havana. Beyond Cuba, discover the Mayan ruins of Mexico. In Jamaica, learn about the history of rum, before sailing to Puerto Plata on the north coast of the Dominican Republic, and then Great Inagua in the Bahamas. Your final call is Cozumel, Mexico's largest island.

The 15-day *Rhythms of the Caribbean & Cuba* cruise departs Jamaica on 3 January 2016 with Saver Fares starting from £1,599pp.

## CENTRAL AMERICAN ADVENTURE

Meet *Voyager* in Acapulco, Mexico. From here, sail to Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala, and then to Nicaragua's San Juan del Sur. Sailing into Costa Rica, *Voyager* calls at Puntarenas. Next it's the beautiful Isla de Coiba. After sailing the Panama Canal, visit the San Blas archipelago, before arriving at Cartagena, Colombia, where there's the opportunity to trek up the crater of the 15-metre high El Totumo mud volcano for a revitalising mud bath.

The 15-day *Central American Adventure* cruise departs Acapulco on 27 February 2016 with Saver Fares starting from £1,799pp.

## ESCAPE TO MADEIRA & THE AZORES

Leaving Portsmouth, it's a quick hop before you step on shore in picturesque St Peter Port, capital of Guernsey. From La Coruña, follow in the footsteps of countless pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela. Reaching the Azores, you'll first discover Horta, and then Ponta Delgada, the capital of São Miguel. You'll then sail to the garden isle at Funchal in Madeira. Returning to mainland Europe, Porto Santo is one of the best-kept secrets of the Atlantic. Your next stop is the Portuguese capital of Lisbon, before returning to Portsmouth to complete this no-fly cruise.

The 16-day *Escape to Madeira & the Azores* cruise departing Portsmouth on 22 May 2016 starts from £1,599pp.

## VIKING LANDS & ICELANDIC EXPLORER

This no-fly cruise explores the numerous treasures that Norway, Iceland and the isolated Faroe Islands have to offer. Sailing from the UK to Norway, explore Bergen's cobbled lanes. In Akureyri, a unique town cradled at the head of Iceland's longest fjord, discover the lava lakes. Step ashore in the isolated town of Isafjordur and admire the town's stunning scenery, before visiting Reykjavik, Iceland's vibrant capital. *Voyager's* final port of call is the Faroe Islands and Torshavn, one of the smallest and most charming capitals in the world, before returning to the UK.

The 13-day *Viking Lands & Icelandic Explorer* cruise departing Harwich on 20 June 2016 starts from £1,574pp.

## DALMATIAN, VENETIAN & GREEK WONDERS

The city of Dubrovnik, Croatia, is the first stop for *Voyager*. Next is Split, on the dramatic Dalmatian coast. In Rijeka, admire its Austro-Hungarian-style buildings. Next, step back in time in medieval Koper, Slovenia. An overnight stay in Venice gives time to enjoy its many treasures. Later, visit Southern Europe's deepest fjord as *Voyager* cruises through Kotor Bay. At Corfu, unwind on a spectacular beach. Next, visit Katakolon, gateway to Olympia, site of the ancient Olympic Games. Another new port for *Voyager* is the castle town of Monemvasia. Finally, from Piraeus, explore the Greek capital of Athens.

The 14-day *Dalmatian, Venetian & Greek Wonders* cruise departing Dubrovnik on 13 September 2016 starts from £1,819pp. 🚢

**From far left:**  
Gullfoss waterfall,  
Iceland; Voyages  
of Discovery's  
small ship  
*Voyager*; Mexico's  
Chichen Itza

## VOYAGES *of* DISCOVERY

Visit [voyagesofdiscovery.co.uk](http://voyagesofdiscovery.co.uk),

call 01858 414 002 or contact your local travel agent for more information.



## CITY GUIDE

# MONTREAL

Stylish, compact and dynamic, the largest city in Quebec is a fabulous cruise-and-stay destination, says **Liz Jarvis**

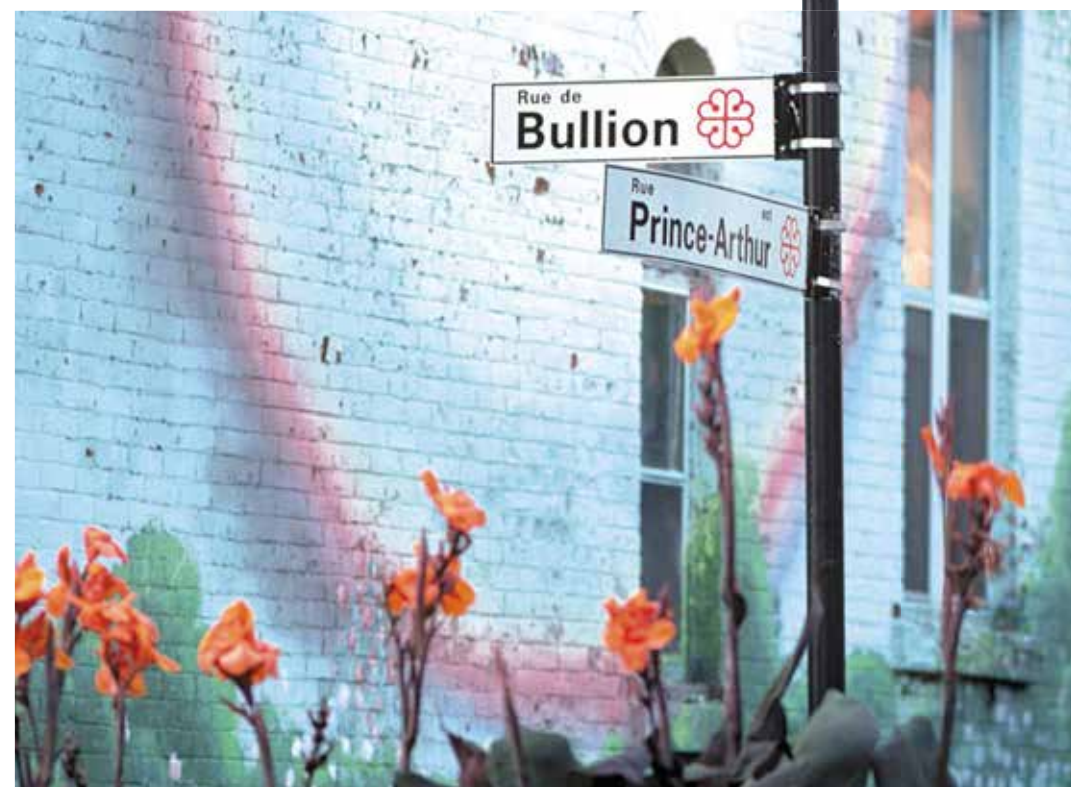
With its cobbled streets, mix of contemporary and old architecture and incredible gastronomy Montreal is probably one of the most unique cities in the world; and despite the fact that it's in Canada, the first language here is French. It's a very popular cruise destination, with Oceania, Holland America and Seabourn among the lines that call here, and the port is within easy reach of many of the city's attractions, including Old Montreal.

### Must-sees

While the gothic Notre-Dame Basilica is probably the most famous church in Montreal, the Mary Queen of the World Cathedral is also well worth visiting – it's meant to be a smaller version of the Vatican, and if you go inside the ceiling is absolutely spectacular. Parc Mont-Royal offers great views of the skyline and is also a beautiful park for walking through all year round. An absolute highlight of any visit to Montreal has to be the area known as Le Plateau and in particular, Square Saint-Louis; here you'll find beautiful Victorian houses painted in every conceivable colour. For a very French experience, head for Atwater Market in Little Burgundy, where even the signs are in French. Old Montreal itself can get very busy but it's still worth exploring as some of the buildings are absolutely charming. And something you can't miss in Montreal is art, because there are sculptures – including works by the likes of Dale Chihuly and Miro – dotted all around the city.

### Where to eat

As you might expect, its French influence means that Montreal has some of the best restaurants in



the world; in fact, it's practically impossible to have a bad meal in Montreal. Highly recommended are Maison Boulud at the Ritz-Carlton on Sherbrooke Street. The menu, created by well-known French chef Daniel Boulud, is contemporary French Canadian (the mini Madeleines are exquisite), and it also has a delightful garden. Evoo, in Little Burgundy, serves wonderful brunches (try the granola with homemade goat's yoghurt and the milk bread, which is extraordinarily good), and its proximity to Atwater Market means you can go for a pleasant stroll around the stalls and along the picturesque Lachine Canal afterwards. On a sunny evening, head to Pandore on St-Dominique Street; part club/bar

**Clockwise from above:** Mural at De Bullion and Prince-Arthur Streets; autumnal waterside trees; brightly painted carved balconies; Montreal skyscrapers at dusk; bronze sculpture by Rose Aimee Belanger; a traditional Canadian breakfast

and part restaurant, it offers fabulous views from its roof terrace, the ideal place for a cocktail. And for a quick sugar fix, celebrated Canadian doughnut chain Tim Hortons has branches all over the city.

### Shopping

Montreal is known as a shoppers' paradise. As well as department stores including Simons and designer shops (you'll find these in Sherbrooke Street West), like many cities with fiercely cold winters there's also a huge underground city – the largest of its kind in the world – with a wide variety of malls, boutiques and restaurants. For something a little quirkier, Le Plateau, east of Mont-Royal, is the place to go.

PHOTOS: © CANADIAN TOURISM COMMISSION/ALAMY/STUDIO POINT DEVUE





## ESSENTIALS



### Where to stay

The Fairmont Queen Elizabeth is a five-star hotel with a superb location – many of the rooms have views of the Mary Queen of the World Cathedral and it's within easy walking distance of the city's main attractions. What makes it really special, though, is its history. It's the hotel where John and Yoko had their famous 'bed-in' for peace (Lennon actually wrote and recorded *Give Peace a Chance* in their suite). Dignitaries who have been welcomed through its doors have included HM The Queen and Nelson Mandela. Rooms are well-appointed with marble bathrooms and amenities by covetable brand Le Labo Rose 31; upgrade to a Fairmont Gold room and you'll also have the use of the exclusive lounge, which has fantastic city views and also serves excellent complimentary breakfasts and hors d'oeuvres. There's also a well-equipped health club and indoor pool (rooms from £95 per night on a bed and breakfast basis, [fairmonthotels.com/queenelizabeth](http://fairmonthotels.com/queenelizabeth)).



### Getting around

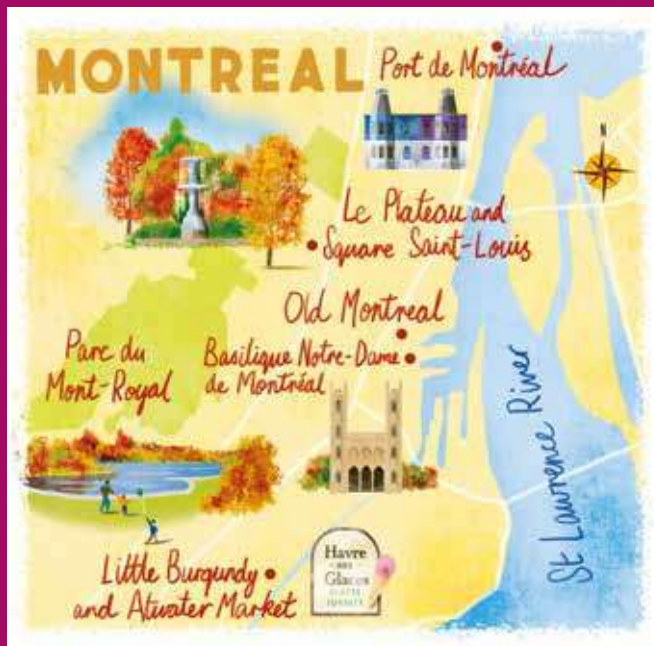
Its size means that Montreal is a great walking city, but there's also an easy to use metro system and taxis are affordable. As you might expect in this eco-friendly city, cycle hire is also incredibly popular – you can pick one up and drop one off at any of the stands outside the metro stations.



### Getting there

Air Canada ([aircanada.com](http://aircanada.com)) offers direct return flights from the UK (Heathrow or Gatwick) to Montreal from £477.46pp in their very comfortable 787 Dreamliners. Visitors from the UK don't currently need a visa to visit Canada, but

from 15 March 2016 everyone will need an electronic travel authorization (eTA), similar to the one required to enter the US. This can be applied for at [cic.ga.ca](http://cic.ga.ca)



**Go online:** For more tips on making the most of your visit to Montreal visit the Tourisme Montreal website at [tourisme-montreal.org](http://tourisme-montreal.org)

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# Editor's LETTER



Whether you're looking for your next cruise holiday or you want to experience an

ocean or river cruise for the first time, Titan's super collection of itineraries for 2016 has everything you're looking for.

From the spectacular glaciers of New Zealand to the exhilarating vistas of Antarctica, the vibrant cities of South America to the raw beauty of the Icelandic coastline, the beautiful islands of Greece to the intriguing waterways of Russia and the stunning beauty of the Rhine, Douro and Danube, there's an adventure for everyone.

And when you book with Titan you can rest assured that everything will be taken care of, from your flights to and from your departure city, and a tour manager to ensure all your travel arrangements are taken care of.

Not only that, but Titan's award-winning VIP Home Departure Service® picks you up and drops you off from your home. Plus, you can also fly internationally from your local airport or take advantage of free connecting flights to London in addition to complimentary home transfers. So you travel in style, every step of the way.

Enjoy,

**Liz Jarvis**  
EDITOR



**T**here's nothing like a leisurely cruise on the world's greatest waterways. No rushing, no need to pack and unpack; just sit back and enjoy the passing scenery in style and comfort as you sail from one picturesque river town to the next. It's a great way to discover a country in more depth, too, and vessels often spend the night in the heart of a great city, within easy walking distance of the main sights.

Titan has been leading the way since 1978 when it began offering European coach holidays. There are now nearly 400 tours and cruises to suit everyone, whether you love art and history, natural beauty, wildlife, local cultures, or a combination of them all, to over 90 countries worldwide.

Titan's reputation owes much to the fact that it always listens to its customers. Every questionnaire received from guests is studied by senior staff members and the feedback is used to continually refine the tours. Titan's aim always remains the same: to deliver unforgettable holidays.

The added benefits are another aspect that sets Titan apart. In addition to Titan's VIP Home Departure Service®, on every holiday\* and departure date wherever you live in the UK, it offers free regional flights and home transfers for customers from Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man or free airport



**Above:** Titan's award-winning VIP Home Departure Service® will ensure you travel in style from door to door

parking for those who prefer to make their own transport arrangements. When you get to the airport, friendly, uniformed staff members are on hand to ease you through check-in. Should you be travelling on your own Titan has frequent special offers to reduce or waive single supplements. For example, *Voyage to the Danube Delta* offers no single supplement cabins, perfect for the solo traveller.

Titan considers excursions to be an integral part of your tour, and therefore includes a host of visits and entrance fees in the price.

A tour manager almost always travels with the group from the UK. Titan tour managers are picked not only for their professionalism but also for their knowledge and ability to provide friendly advice. They work with carefully selected local guides so you get the best possible insights into the places you visit.

NEW  
TOUR

## Grand Discovery OF THE ORIENT



### FROM HONG KONG TO SINGAPORE

On this fabulous itinerary you can discover the wonders of Asia, a fascinating region that evokes images of vibrant cities, cultural marvels, colonial treasures, historic structures and paradise beaches. Explore the bustling city of Hong Kong, with its fusion of western and eastern life, before boarding the splendid MS Volendam for your journey of discovery through the pearls of the Orient. Travel to

Vietnam, a country of contrasts from north to south, before continuing to Cambodia's Gulf of Thailand coast. Thailand – the 'Land of Smiles' – is next, where an overnight stop in port allows plenty of time to explore the capital Bangkok, before continuing to the island of Koh Samui, where white powdery beaches and inviting waters conjure images of paradise. End your incredible adventure in the city-state known for its colonial history and superb shopping, Singapore.

*A 20-day tour departing 23 October 2016 starts from £2,999pp. Price includes a 3-night hotel stay, a 14-night cruise on MS Volendam, Titan's VIP Home Departure Service®, and return flights.*

**Above:** Hong Kong's dazzling harbour  
**Below:** Congressional Plaza, Buenos Aires, Argentina

## South American DISCOVERY



### FROM BUENOS AIRES, FALKLAND ISLANDS AND CHILE

Discover one of the last remaining, virtually unspoiled regions of the world on this spectacular cruise that starts in the Argentinean capital of Buenos Aires. Sail to the Falkland Islands' Port Stanley and the Beagle Channel to reach the southernmost town in the world, Ushuaia, from where the scenic highlights of this journey begin. Sail round Cape Horn, following the Chilean coastline, and uncover a country with more mountains than the Alps, more glaciers than Alaska and more fjords than all of Scandinavia. Your journey ends with a stay in the vibrant capital, Santiago.

*A 19-day tour departing 19 February 2016 starts from £3,299pp and includes a 2-night hotel stay, a 14-night cruise on MS Zaandam, 44 meals, Titan's VIP Home Departure Service®, and free connecting flights from regional airports.*



## New Zealand COASTAL DISCOVERY



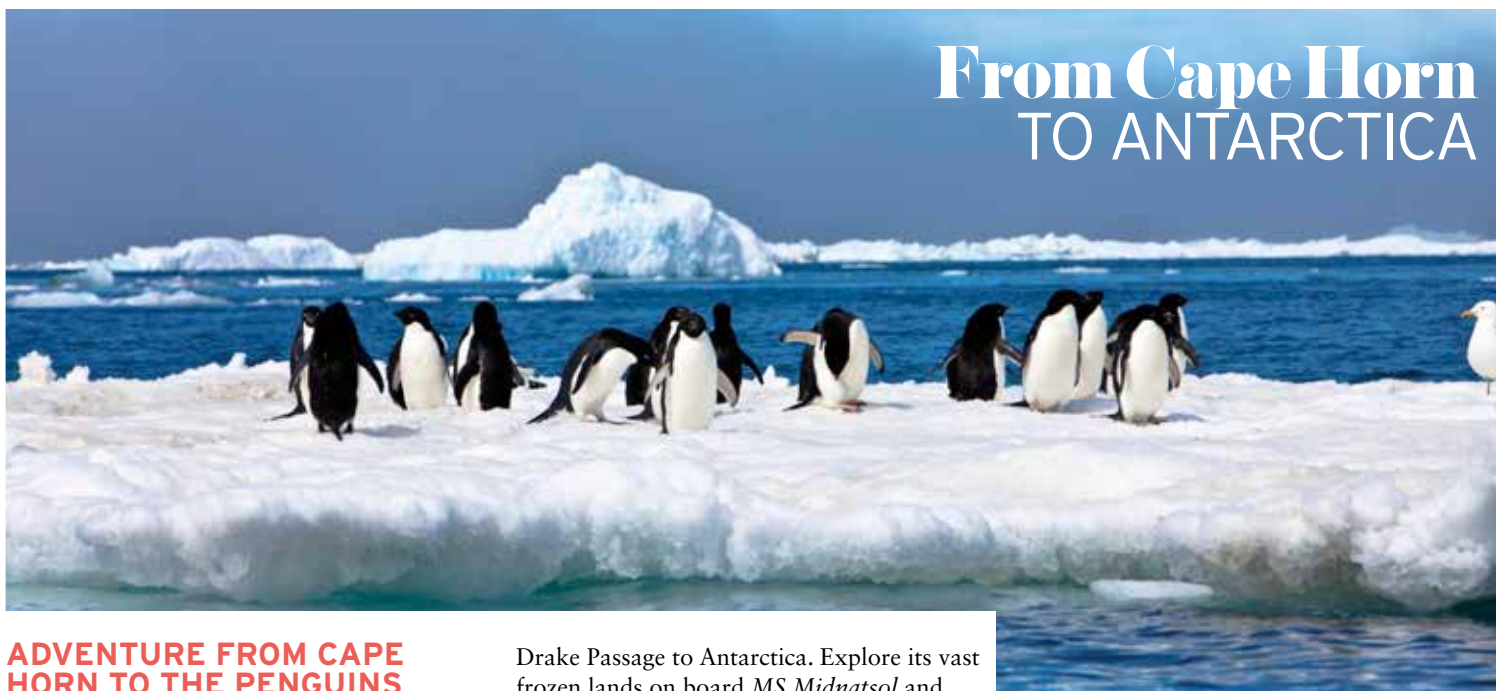
**Above:**  
Milford Sound  
at dawn

### INCLUDES SYDNEY AND TASMANIA

This breathtaking tour is your opportunity to absorb the remarkable beauty and diversity of New Zealand's stunning coastline. Your magical journey starts with a two-night stay in the vibrant city of Sydney, Australia. On board *MS Noordam*, you'll discover the lesser-visited place of natural wonders, Tasmania, then cross the Tasman Sea to experience the unspoilt splendour of New Zealand's Fiordland National Park, in the southwest corner of the South Island; the charming city of Napier; the capital, Wellington; and the volcanic springs of Rotorua, known for bubbling mud pools, shooting geysers and natural hot springs.

*A 20-day tour departing 26 January 2016 starts from £4,199pp and includes a 2-night hotel stay, a 14-night cruise on MS Noordam, 44 meals, Titan's VIP Home Departure Service®, scheduled flights via Dubai, and free connecting flights from regional airports.*

## From Cape Horn TO ANTARCTICA



### ADVENTURE FROM CAPE HORN TO THE PENGUINS OF ANTARCTICA

Embrace your inner David Attenborough as you marvel at the astonishing vistas and incredible wildlife of the Great White Continent on this superb tour.

Sail from South America's southern region of Patagonia via the stunningly-picturesque Chilean fjords. There's the opportunity to step on shore to the deserted island of Cape Horn, the southernmost point of the South American continent, before sailing across

Drake Passage to Antarctica. Explore its vast frozen lands on board *MS Midnatsol* and see penguins, seals, whales and countless sea birds over several magical days, before heading back to Chile for a tour of its capital city, Santiago.

*An 18-day tour departing 20 January 2017 starts from £5,399pp and includes one night in a hotel, a 14-night cruise on MS Midnatsol, 41 meals, Titan's VIP Home Departure Service®, scheduled flights via Sao Paulo, and free connecting flights from regional airports.*

**Above:** A group  
of penguins in  
Antarctica

# Italian Lakes AND GREEK ISLANDS



## VISITING CORFU, SANTORINI AND LAKE MAGGIORE

Enjoy a relaxing cruise around the beautiful Greek Isles. The ports visited on this cruise reflect thousands of years of history and art, from the natural beauty of Santorini, to Katakolon where the first Olympiad was held in 776 BC in honour

of Olympian Zeus. Concludes with three nights on the shores of Lake Maggiore.

*An 11-day tour departing 1 October 2016 starts from £1,299pp and includes a 3-night hotel stay, 7 nights on Norwegian Jade, Titan's VIP Home Departure Service®, scheduled direct flights, and free connecting flights from regional airports.*



## Icelandic COASTLINE



**Above:** The rooftops of Santorini  
**Below:** Iceland's superb coastline

## ICELAND'S STUNNING COASTLINE

This is an exceptional opportunity to explore the natural beauty of Iceland from the sea on board the charming *MS Ocean Diamond*. Starting from the capital, Reykjavik, sail to Stykkisholmur, where you'll explore the Snaefellsnes Peninsula and, via Zodiac boats, Breidafjörður Bay, known for its colourful birdlife, unique basalt rock formations and stunning scenery. Next it's the idyllic town of Isafjörður, followed by the city of Siglufjörður, where another Zodiac excursion will take you to Hedinsfjörður, an uninhabited inlet surrounded by the majestic mountains of the Tröllaskagi Peninsula. Later you'll whale watch near the island of Flatey, before visiting Seydisfjörður and then the Westman Islands before returning to Reykjavik.

*A 10-day cruise departing 24 May 2016 starts from £2,499pp and includes 9 nights on MS Ocean Diamond, 26 meals, Titan's VIP Home Departure Service®, scheduled direct flights, and free connecting flights from regional airports.*



# Russia's Royal RIVERWAYS



**Top:** Resplendent Red Square, Moscow  
**Above:** Peterhof Park and Gardens, St Petersburg

## FROM ST PETERSBURG TO MOSCOW

Your Russian adventure starts in St Petersburg, where you'll visit the extraordinary Hermitage Museum, one of the largest and most respected art museums in the world, and see works by Da Vinci, Rembrandt and Michelangelo. On board *MS Rublev*, you'll sail first to Mandrogi, a reconstructed village, built on the shore of the Svir River to illustrate the traditions and lifestyle of Russia's past, and then Kizhi Island, before cruising Lake Onega, the second largest lake in Europe and one of the world's purest. Next, explore the cities of Yaroslavl and Uglich before reaching Moscow, founded as a fortress on the banks of the Moskva, where you'll visit sights Red Square and St Basil's Cathedral.

*An 11-day tour departing 21 May 2016 starts from £1,199pp and includes 10 nights on MS Rublev, 29 meals, 9 excursions, Titan's VIP Home Departure Service®, scheduled direct flights, and free connecting flights from regional airports.*

# A Celebration of LISBON AND THE DOURO



## AN EXCLUSIVELY-CHARTERED JOURNEY ON BOARD THE SPIRIT OF CHARTWELL

This wonderful itinerary begins in Portugal's capital, Lisbon, where you are free to explore. Next you'll head by road to Porto to board The Spirit of Chartwell – also known as the 'Royal Barge' – the vessel that carried HM The Queen during the Diamond Jubilee Pageant on the Thames. Sailing up the River Douro, your first stop is Entre-os-Rios, where lunch will be served at the 14th century Alpendurada Monastery. In Régua, visit the Baroque Mateus Palace, before crossing the border into Spain to explore the UNESCO-listed city of Salamanca. Returning down the River Douro back towards Régua, there's the opportunity to visit the town of Lamego and the grand sanctuary of Nossa Senhora dos Remédios.

*A 10-day tour departing 13 May 2016 starts from £2,599pp and includes 2 nights in a hotel, a 7-night cruise on The Spirit of Chartwell, Titan's VIP Home Departure Service®, and scheduled direct flights, and free connecting flights from regional airports. ►►*



**Top:** Rolling banks of the River Douro  
**Above:** The seaside town of Azenhas do Mar, Portugal

# Jewels of the Rhine AND MAIN



**Top:** Meandering along the Rhine at Miltenbrg, Germany  
**Above:** The Residenz of Würzburg

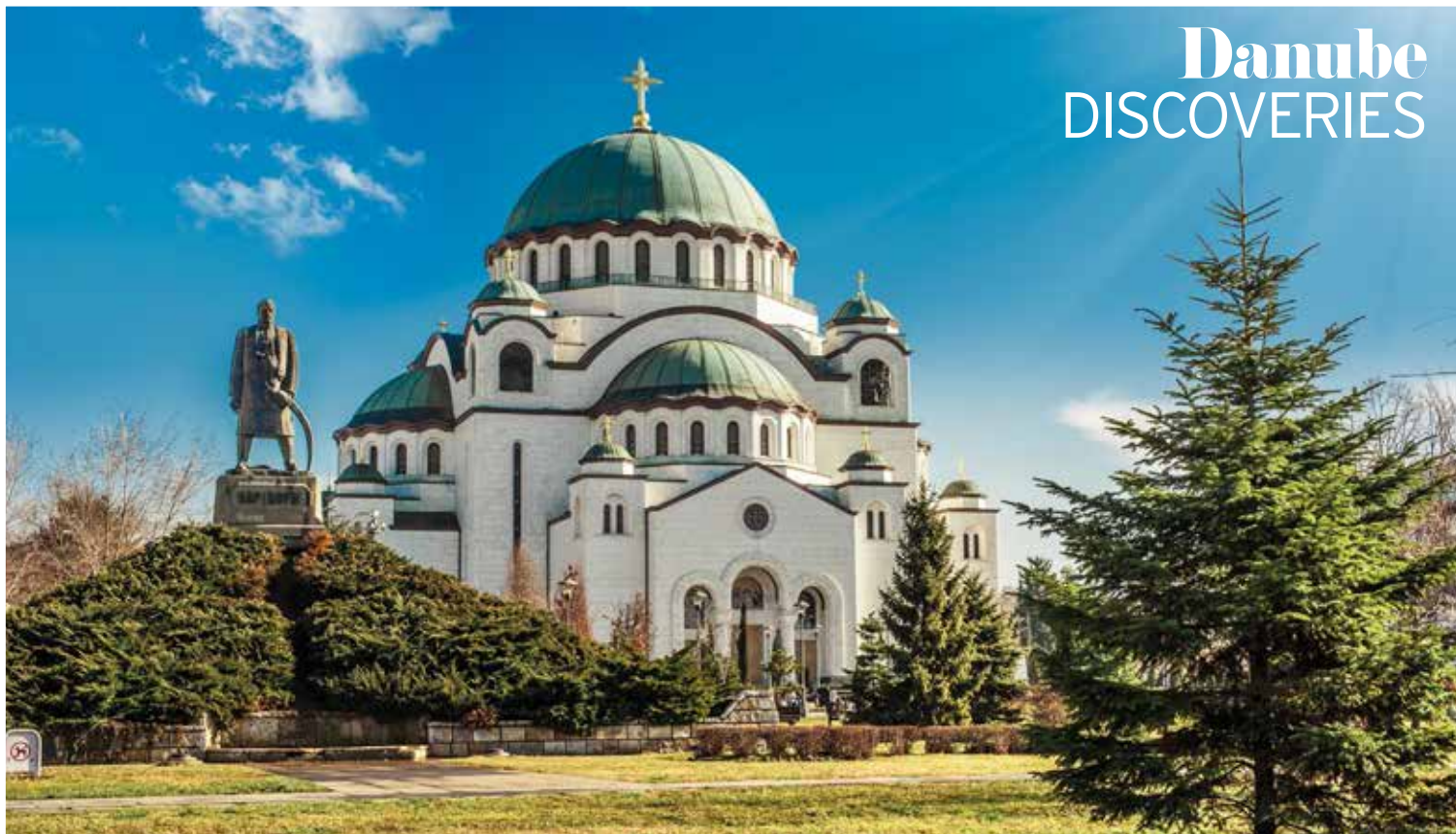
## FROM COLOGNE TO NUREMBERG

Arriving in Düsseldorf, transfer to the port in Cologne and embark the exclusively-chartered *Royal Crown*. After exploring the city, you'll sail along the Rhine to Bonn, where there's the opportunity to explore the streets of this former capital city and visit Beethoven's House, birthplace of the musical genius. Next, take in the sights of the historical town of Koblenz, including the Ehrenbreitstein Fortress, which is reached by cable car. In the ancient town of Oberwesel, visit the imposing 1st century Schönburg Castle, before exploring Rüdesheim at your own pace. Next, visit the small town of Miltenberg, and then Wertheim, known for its fine wines. In Würzburg, visit one of Germany's largest palaces, Würzburg Residenz, before concluding in Nuremberg.

*A 9-day tour departing 20 August 2016 starts from £1,999pp and includes an 8-night cruise on Royal Crown, 23 meals, Titan's VIP Home Departure Service®, and scheduled direct flights.*

\*EXCEPT THE NEW RANGE OF 'TRAVELLER BY TITAN' HOLIDAYS. EXCLUDES SCOTTISH ISLANDS AND SARK WHERE VEHICLE ACCESS IS RESTRICTED. TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY.

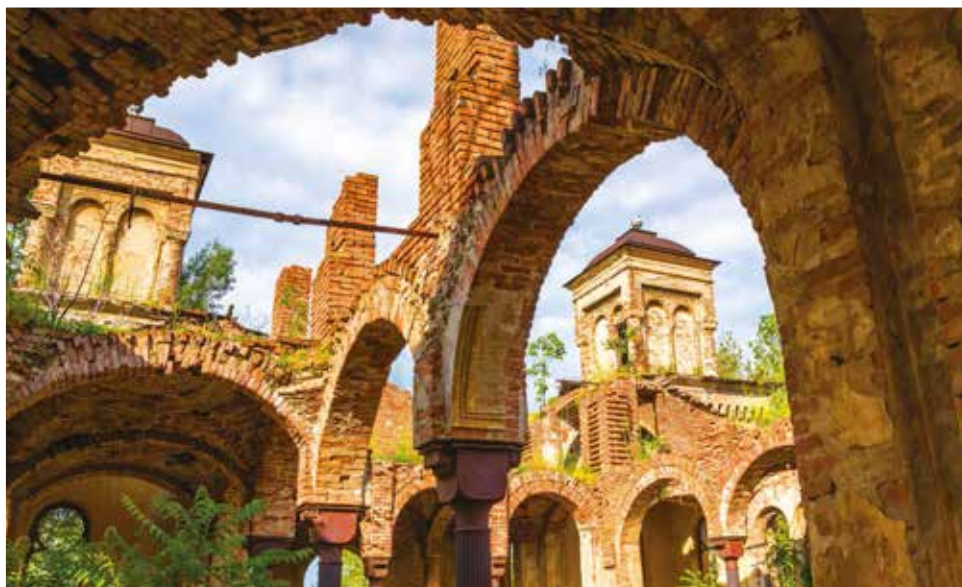
# Danube DISCOVERIES



## VIENNA, BELGRADE AND BUDAPEST

Enjoy a city tour of Vienna's highlights before sailing to Esztergom, where you can visit art galleries, museums and the Basilica. See a performance of traditional Hungarian horsemanship in Pusztá, and then tour Belgrade to see the Saint Sava Cathedral and Kalemegdan fortress. Sail through the Iron Gates, one of the most scenic areas on the Danube, and later explore the Croatian port of Vukovar, with its attractive riverside promenade. Finally, absorb the incredible blend of medieval and modern in Budapest.

*A 12-day tour departing 23 August 2016 starts from £1,849pp and includes an 11-night cruise on Filia Rheni II, 32 meals, Titan's VIP Home Departure Service®, and scheduled direct flights.* 🇬🇧



**Top:** A church in Belgrade, Serbia  
**Above:** Ruined synagogue, Bulgaria

## Here's what you can expect on your holiday with award-winning Titan Travel

- VIP UK door-to-door return transfers from your front door to the airport on every holiday and every departure date with no mileage supplements to pay\*.
- Itineraries tailored exclusively for British travellers, and groups comprised only of UK travellers.
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- International flights from a selection of local airports where routings and transfers allow†.
- Titan's peerless price promise guarantees that earliest bookers receive the best prices.
- Complimentary VIP transfers to your local airport and regional connecting flights to London if you live in the north of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands†.

# Win a Viking river cruise

You and a guest could be sailing along the picturesque river Rhine on a Viking Longship






**S**traight out of a storybook, the River Rhine is completely enchanting at every turn. Its banks are filled with hilltop castles, fairy tale forests, rolling vineyards, pretty villages with medieval timber-framed houses and ancient cities with glorious cathedrals. Flowing through the historic heart of Europe, the Rhine is as important as it is beautiful. Basel, Strasbourg, Koblenz and Speyer are just some of the historic cities and towns that have grown and prospered along its banks.

From its source in the Swiss Alps to the North Sea at Rotterdam, the river flows for 765 miles through six countries. But it is the UNESCO-listed Middle Rhine that captures hearts and imaginations. This is the Rhine of dreams and of myths, including the legend of the Lorelei, the beautiful siren of the rocks. Here, towns like the winemaking Rüdesheim, with its winding cobbled streets, epitomise its charm. Heading north, the valley broadens to Cologne, with its Roman monuments and iconic cathedral that took 600 years to build. Flowing from Germany into the Netherlands, the

river is dotted with distributaries that lead to picture-perfect towns like Kinderdijk, with its UNESCO-listed windmills, and the charming Dutch capital of Amsterdam.

The Rhine is steeped in history and culture, and surrounded by stunning architecture. A cruise along its meandering path gives you the chance to explore this compelling part of Europe in a way that is both relaxing and stimulating.

To find out more about Viking River Cruises visit [vikingrivercruises.co.uk](http://vikingrivercruises.co.uk) or call 0208 780 8701. 

### WIN A CRUISE ON THE RHINE



#### Competition entry form

**How to enter:** For your chance to win a fabulous holiday with Viking River Cruises, simply answer the following question, then complete and send this form to the address below. All entries must be received by 11.59pm on Friday 16 October 2015.

#### How long is the river Rhine?

- ☐ A 76 miles  
☐ B 765 miles  
☐ C 7,650 miles

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send your coupon to:** Viking River Cruises Competition, Cruise International, The Chelsea Magazine Company, Jubilee House, 2 Jubilee Place, London SW3 3TQ, UK

By entering the competition, you agree and acknowledge that The Chelsea Magazine Company and Viking River Cruises are permitted to receive your registration data. Please tick if you subscribe to *CRUISE INTERNATIONAL* magazine ☐ Please tick if you do NOT wish to be sent information about products and services from The Chelsea Magazine Company or Viking River Cruises by phone, post or email ☐ Terms & Conditions apply (see box above).

**Or enter online at:** [cruise-international.com/win-a-Rhine-cruise](http://cruise-international.com/win-a-Rhine-cruise)

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS** • The prize includes return scheduled economy flights from London; eight days on board your Viking Longship; six guided tours; all meals as stated in the itinerary; all port and airport taxes; all overseas transfers. • All entrants must be a UK resident and aged 18 or over. • The prize is non-transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash. Entries close at 11.59pm on Friday 16 October 2015. • The prize must be claimed by 1 December 2015 and used by 31 December 2016. • The cruise offered is for two people sharing a minimum of D grade French Balcony Stateroom. This is subject to change at the discretion of Viking River Cruises. • The Prize Winner and companion are responsible for their own transportation to and from their UK airport. • Travel insurance and gratuities are not included. • Any other expenses incurred during the period of the prize will be the responsibility of the prize winner and their companion. • No cash alternative will be offered and prizes are non-transferable and non-exchangeable. • The Prize Winner will be responsible for supplying valid passports and, where necessary, for obtaining appropriate vaccinations and inoculations. It is strongly recommended that travellers take out adequate travel insurance. • Viking River Cruises cannot be responsible for unforeseen cancellations of flights or cancellation of the cruise due to circumstances beyond our control. • Viking reserves the right to substitute an alternative cruise of a similar value due to any unforeseen circumstances. • The holiday is ABTA and ATOL protected. • No responsibility can be accepted for entries lost, delayed or incomplete. • Entry constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions.



# RIVER CRUISE *News*

SHIPS • EVENTS • DESTINATIONS

## NEW SHIPS FOR VIKING

Viking River Cruises have announced that they will be launching six new river ships in 2016, increasing the size of their fleet to 65.

Five of the ships are Longships: *Viking Tialfi* and *Viking Alruna* will be sailing on the Rhine; *Viking Egil* will be sailing on the Danube, while *Viking Vilhajalm* and *Viking Kadlin* will be sailing on the Seine and in France.

A sixth ship, *Viking Osfrid*, will be sailing on the Douro.

The cruise line has also introduced a new two-night extension in Basel on its *Rhine Discovery* itinerary. Starting from £339pp, the extension package includes two nights at the Radisson Blu Hotel Basel (or similar), daily breakfasts, a walking tour of Basel and hotel/ship transfers are included along with the services of a dedicated Viking concierge for this post-cruise package. For more information go to [vikingrivercruises.co.uk](http://vikingrivercruises.co.uk) or call 0800 319 60 60.



PHOTO: © ISTOCK

## Crystal's six-star yachts

Crystal Cruises will launch Crystal River Cruises in Europe with two new 70-suite luxury river yachts in late March 2017.

Crystal President and CEO Edie Rodriguez said: "Our guests want to experience river cruises on a luxury Crystal vessel, and their desires will be fulfilled on our luxury Crystal river yachts."

Crystal's new luxury river yachts are set to offer the brand's signature all-inclusive six-star service and will sail along some of the most picturesque rivers in Europe. Itineraries will be available to book from 1 December 2015 ([crystalcruises.co.uk](http://crystalcruises.co.uk)).



## MORE SHIPS FOR EMERALD

Emerald Waterways, the river cruise line that launched last year with *Emerald Sky* and *Emerald Star*, christened by British icon Twiggy, is in negotiations to build three more ships, which will be due for delivery in 2017.

The move will bring the number of ships within the Emerald fleet to eight, with another vessel, *Emerald Belle*, set for delivery next year.

New ships *Emerald Dawn* and *Emerald Sun* were christened in the summer. 🇬🇧



# FRENCH *style*

Discover the flavours of France on a luxurious Uniworld river cruise, complete with Titan's door-to-door VIP Home Departure Service®



From the chic streets of Paris to the lush vineyards of Burgundy, Uniworld offers superb itineraries for lovers of French art, culture and cuisine.

*Burgundy and Provence* follows the footsteps of Post-Impressionist painters Van Gogh and Cézanne across the same magnificent countryside that inspired their masterpieces; *Paris and Normandy* is a foodies' odyssey, offering the chance to sample an abundance of rich cheeses, crisp ciders and warming calvados.

Sailing in style on board Uniworld's award-winning river cruise ships, you'll be able to relax in total luxury. Titan's VIP Home Departure Service ensures a stress-free start to your travels, whisking you from your front door to the airport and home again after your cruise in total comfort.

## PARIS AND NORMANDY

Explore the world-famous landmarks of Paris, the 'City of Light'; stroll along the Champs-Élysées, take a trip to the top of the Eiffel Tower or watch the world go by from a Left Bank café. Sit among the apple orchards at a Normandy farm, savouring cider, calvados and the delicious fresh cheeses for which the region is renowned, and imagine walking through a Monet masterpiece in his lovely gardens in Giverny. Back on board, you'll enjoy first class food and drink, including a tutored champagne tasting.

Eight-day cruises depart on 19 June; 17 and 24 July; 7 and 14 August 2016 and start from £3,099pp (book by 30 September 2015 and save up to £400pp).

**Above, from left:** The Van Gogh Lounge on board Uniworld's river ship S.S. Catherine; lavender in Provence

## BURGUNDY AND PROVENCE

The beautiful city of Lyon is considered to be France's gastronomic capital and is home to chef Paul Bocuse, an ambassador for modern French cuisine. You'll experience some of his culinary magic at l'Institut Paul Bocuse with a cooking demonstration, and there'll be a chance to go in search of the 'black diamond' at a truffle farm, accompanied by the owners and their trusted canine companion, learning how they cultivate the delicacy. Take a wander through picturesque Avignon, 'City of the Popes,' discover the Roman amphitheatre in Arles and sample the superb wines of the Côtes de Rhône and Burgundy, while there's plenty to do on board, too, with guest lectures and chocolate and wine tastings.

Eight-day cruises depart on 5 and 26 June; 10, 17 and 24 July 2016 and start from £3,299pp (book by 30 September 2015 and save up to £400pp).

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Traditional  
gabled houses  
reflected in an  
Amsterdam canal



# REFLECTIONS

*on the Rhine*

A river cruise with Emerald Waterways from Amsterdam to Nuremberg  
offers a wealth of cultural adventures, discovers **Trish Burgess**



*What surprised me  
most about this river  
cruise was the pleasure  
to be had from gazing  
at the changing scenery  
from the comfort of  
Emerald Star*



**Facing page:**  
Charming sights  
along the Rhine.  
**This picture:**  
Rheinstein Castle,  
Germany

In 1745, after working day and night for nine months, renowned sculptor Antonio Bossi eventually completed the intricate stucco work in the White Hall of the Würzburg Residence. The aim had been to finish the decoration of the room before the visit of Empress Maria Theresa. Unfortunately, exhausted from her journey, the Empress took no notice of Bossi's labour of love and retired to bed as soon as she arrived.

If only Maria Theresa had been on an Emerald Waterways guided tour she would have hooked up to the individual audio system.

The guided tours proved to be a highlight of our cruise from Amsterdam to Nuremberg. I loved the flexibility of joining a group if

we fancied it, being able to hear the commentary if we wandered off to take photos and even going off-piste for a short time before tuning ourselves back in if we came across one of our groups later in the day.

Being new to river cruises, my husband Dougie and I were delighted that our ship, *Emerald Star*, was able to dock in the centre of most of the towns we visited. Having embarked in Amsterdam, we jumped ship after dinner on the first night to explore the city, letting ourselves back in with a security code at the door: this relaxed, informal approach to cruising was a big hit with us.

A full day and night in Amsterdam proved to be one of the pluses of the *Rhine-Main Discovery* itinerary. There was also the added treat of an early morning city tour on a glass-top canal boat, before visiting the floating flower market and the Begijnhof courtyard.

When we eventually glided away, a dip in the pool was the perfect way to make the most of the sizzling weather. *Emerald Star*, like all the other ships in this sparkling new fleet, has a heated pool at the aft of the ship where you can swim a few strokes before looking out to see the idyllic riverbank scenery drift past. The roof is retractable so guests can order a cocktail from the bar, relax in the stylish armchairs and soak up the rays.

A unique feature of the pool area is its clever transformation later in the evening to a cinema. This was another high point of our week: kicking off our shoes after dinner, tucking into a bucket of popcorn and watching *The Hundred Foot Journey* on a huge screen. The sound was excellent, via comfortable padded headphones, but what made it extra special was spotting the bright lights of Frankfurt through the blinds of the ship. ►►



When the blinds were lifted, the astonishing sight of 'Mainhattan' at night was complemented on screen by Helen Mirren and a Bastille Day firework display. It couldn't have been timed better.

We might not have had the opportunity to see Frankfurt during the day but we did have a fabulous afternoon in Cologne where we cooled off inside the stunning Gothic cathedral whilst others in our group made good use of the free beer voucher, an exclusive offer arranged by Emerald Waterways.

A big draw for guests making the most of the exceptional weather was the sun deck, which had ample space for sunbathers with plenty of seating and shaded canopies. It was definitely the place to be during the hotly anticipated meander through the Middle Rhine Valley. Our cruise director, Brigitta, guided our eyes left and right so we wouldn't miss the cornucopia of castles on this breathtaking section of the river. Stirred by tales of lost love and revenge, I was caught up with the history and legends of these fantastic old buildings. Sterrenberg and Liebenstein castles came to life as we listened to the story of Henry and Konrad, brothers fighting over their beloved Angela. Rheinstein and Reichenstein castles were no longer just bricks and mortar: they breathed with the love which enveloped Gerda and Helmbrecht.

Love was also in the air later that day in Rüdesheim as Liszt's *Love Dream No.3* could be heard on the self-playing Bechstein-Welte piano, part of a fascinating collection at Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum. The violin orchestra playing Verdi's *La Donna è Mobile* thrilled our group and gave us all a spring in our step as we sauntered down the very narrow lane, Drosselgasse, famous as a symbol of German Gemütlichkeit (a state of warmth, friendliness and good cheer).

The crew of *Emerald Star* certainly exhibited all these qualities: they were like a big family and welcomed all guests to their home on the river. Nothing was too much trouble; they were full of fun but always kept up very high standards of service. It was reassuring to note that all tips are included in an Emerald cruise.



As we travelled up the Rhine, the menus in the restaurant, which were generally international in style, often reflected the traditional cuisine from each region. My personal favourites were the Franconian donuts, also known as knieküchla or 'knee-cakes' because the dough was traditionally stretched out over the baker's knee. My husband took a shine to Himmel un Äd, 'heaven and earth', a hearty appetiser of fried black pudding, onions and mashed potatoes. Complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks for lunch and dinner all contributed to a very happy ship.

Nearing the end of our cruise, the German towns in Bavaria became even more picturesque: winding cobbled streets, half-timbered houses, window boxes full of bright red geraniums. And there were many delightful

**From top:** Himmel un Äd, 'heaven and earth'; the stylish Owner's Suite on board *Emerald Star*

moments: climbing up to see the view from Miltenberg Castle and rewarding ourselves with a glass of ice-cold local beer; watching a gondolier punting along the river in the 'Little Venice' area of beautiful Bamberg; laughing at stories of grape pickers in the steep vineyards having one leg shorter than the other.

What surprised me most about this river cruise was the pleasure to be had from gazing at the changing scenery from the comfort of *Emerald Star*: sightseeing wasn't just restricted to port stops.

Emerald Waterways has designed their new boutique ships so the majority of cabins benefit from a revolutionary indoor balcony system where the upper half of the floor-to-ceiling windows can be lowered at the push of a button, allowing a full panoramic view of the surroundings and fresh air to roll in.

From our balcony we were fascinated to see the Rhine as a working river; to sail past barges carrying freight and wave to families enjoying picnics by the water's edge. There was beauty to behold in each section of the river. Even the flat landscape of the Netherlands/Germany border had its charm.

Our week's cruising ended in Nuremberg, although most of the passengers remained on board to continue their journey to Budapest. As we left we made a pact to book the second part of this cruise sometime in the near future. 🍷

### GETTING THERE

Emerald Waterways offers an 8-day *Rhine-Main Discovery* cruise from Amsterdam to Nuremberg to visit the Christmas markets from £1,695pp, a saving of £1,000pp. Price includes eight shore excursions, return flights from the UK, all port charges, airport taxes and transfers within Europe. Call 0808 102 0310 or visit [emeraldwaterways.co.uk](http://emeraldwaterways.co.uk)

**Go online:** Read a full *Emerald Star* review at [cruise-international.com/emerald-waterways-cruise-ship-review/](http://cruise-international.com/emerald-waterways-cruise-ship-review/)

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It all begins in Passau, the 'City of Three Rivers'. Here you'll spend your first full morning navigating the cobblestone streets and narrow alleys of the region's famous Old Town, before drinking in the views from the hilltop Oberhaus Fortress.

Your journey then continues onto Linz, Austria's third largest city. An included guided tour serves as the ideal introduction to this quintessential European jewel, providing you with an insight into the plentiful Baroque churches and typically Viennese architecture of the region.

The picturesque town of Melk boasts a 900-year-old Benedictine abbey, which is located on a rocky outcrop overlooking the snaking river below. You'll partake in an essential visit to this striking manmade gem, before enjoying time at leisure on board as you cut through the enchanting Wachau Valley. This 24-mile stretch is one of the most beautiful backdrops you will

encounter on your cruise.

Two nights in Vienna ensures you have enough time to take in all the treasures of this captivating and grandiose city. On an icon-filled coach tour of the Ringstrasse you'll see Vienna's world-famous Opera House, Burgtheatre, Town Hall and Hofburg Imperial Palace, before hopping off to explore on foot at your own pace. The following day is yours to explore at leisure; alternatively, you can choose to take an optional tour of Bratislava's Old Town in Slovakia, prior to your Captain's Farewell Gala Dinner back on board.

For the perfect end to a perfect holiday, we welcome you to Budapest – Eastern Europe's most cosmopolitan city. You'll encounter many of the region's UNESCO World Heritage Sites during a guided tour, including Buda Castle Quarter and Heroes' Square, with the Fisherman's Bastion unveiling unrivalled views of the hypnotic cityscape.

As you bid farewell to the comfort of your award-winning Star-Ship, we'll transfer you to the airport for your flight home.

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## We're on the road again... Come and meet the team

Come and meet the Emerald Waterways team at one of our information sessions this month:

- Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept - Portsmouth Marriott
- Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Oct - Peterborough Marriott
- Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Oct - Leicester Marriott
- Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Oct - Liverpool Marriott

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**EMERALD**

W A T E R W A Y S

\*These departures operate in reverse. **Terms and Conditions:** Prices are per person based on two people sharing the lowest available cabin at time of print (August 2015). Supplements apply for upgraded accommodation and other dates. Single supplements available on request, please call for details. The up to £600 saving is for new bookings only made between 4<sup>th</sup> September and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015. 1.5% (1.95% for Am Ex) credit card charge will apply. For full itineraries and booking conditions, please see our 2016 river cruise brochure or visit [www.emeraldwaterways.co.uk](http://www.emeraldwaterways.co.uk).



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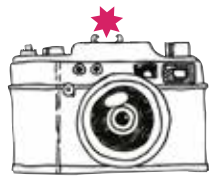
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# CRUISE *Gallery*

We invite you to send us your favourite photos from your cruise

**STAR  
PHOTO**



*A floral carpet of lupins in Olden during our cruise on Caribbean Princess. Keith Davie*



*At the sailaway party on board P&O's Britannia. Jodi Posner*



*My grandad visiting the Norwegian fjords on board P&O's Aurora. Adam Pearce*

## In our next issue...



★ Find out who you voted as the winners of the Cruise Awards 2015

★ The best itineraries for the year ahead - plus new ships launching in 2016

★ Win a luxury ocean cruise holiday for two

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# ASK THE *Experts*

Got a question about cruise holidays? Get in touch with our experts at [info@cruise-international.com](mailto:info@cruise-international.com)

## THIS ISSUE'S EXPERTS



Julie Peasgood is a TV presenter, travel expert and Contributing Editor for *Cruise International*



Liz Jarvis is a well-known travel expert and the Editor of *Cruise International*



Sara Macefield is an award-winning journalist and Contributing Editor for *Cruise International*



**Q** I'm thinking of booking a world cruise but am concerned that I'll get restless being on the ship for such a long time. Is there a way to leave early? Or can I book a slightly shorter trip without being penalised?

**A.** A world cruise is viewed as the ultimate cruise adventure – waking up each day to a different landscape whilst circumnavigating the globe. But if you have concerns that a full three to four month cruise may be too long for you, you could consider splitting it up into two halves, with a land-based break in between – and changing ships would also ensure maximum variety. Cunard sails to New Zealand and Australia in January with both *Queen Mary 2* and *Queen Victoria*, so you could travel there on one vessel, have a holiday down under and then complete the second leg

on the sister ship. You wouldn't be penalised for booking a shorter trip – many travellers book only one or two legs of a world cruise, in which case you would just fly out and join your chosen ship during its grand voyage, then either fly or sail home again. There are plenty of options, so I would chat with the various cruise lines that offer world cruises – try P&O, Oceania, Regent Seven Seas, Cruise & Maritime Voyages, Silversea and Crystal Cruises, as well as Cunard. A little research should enable you to design an itinerary that fits your budget and curbs your restlessness. **Julie Peasgood**

**Q** My kids are obsessed with fish and dolphins, and keen to try snorkelling - which cruises would be best for us?

**A.** I would definitely take a look at a Caribbean itinerary – not only will the water be warm but you'll see an abundance of underwater life and tropical fish. Often family-friendly cruise lines offer free snorkelling equipment when you're in port – Carnival does this at Grand Turk, for example. My son actually learned to snorkel on a Disney cruise when we

stopped at the line's own private island, Castaway Cay, in the Bahamas. February half-term is a great time to go on a Caribbean cruise because there's so little rainfall. Alternatively, if you take a cruise around the islands of Hawaii, you're pretty much guaranteed turtle and dolphin sightings as well. **Liz Jarvis**



**Q** I'm in my late 30s, love music and want to go on my first cruise. Which line is most likely to attract people of a similar age?

**A.** You'd be best choosing one of the major US cruise lines, such as Norwegian Cruise Line or Celebrity, whose large ships have plenty of bars and nightlife. Carnival even has its Carnival Live concert nights featuring classic acts such as Boston, Heart or Lionel Richie. Alternatively, you could opt for one of the themed

sea-going music festivals organised by Sixtman, which charts cruise ships for rock cruises featuring the likes of Kiss and Kid Rock. There are also Star Trek themed sailings, a Walking Dead zombie cruise and even a sailing for goths, all sure to attract younger crowds.

**Sara Macefield**



## THE INSIDER



Our regular column from **Andy Harmer**, Director of the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) UK & Ireland

An impressive 23 million people will take a cruise holiday this year with guests being drawn from many different countries, and in turn they will visit amazing places found in the four corners of the world. The vast majority of cruise passengers are American, with Germany holding the second spot followed by us Brits, but I've been on cruises where different nationalities can number way above 30.

When I think back to when I was first introduced to cruising, only two popular destinations really came to mind – the Caribbean and the Mediterranean, the latter still being the most popular with British cruisers.

A lot has changed since then and cruising is now very much a global industry. Ports and destinations remain the number one drive for holidaymakers and cruise lines are constantly introducing new itineraries. And while the majority of British passengers continue to cruise in Europe, others are looking for alternative destinations often off the beaten track, with current focus east to China, Japan, Asia and Australia.

For the first time, more than one million cruise guests now emanate from both China and Australia and we are seeing a growing number of ships being deployed to China, many of which attract Chinese guests. Royal Caribbean, for example, has significantly increased its number of Chinese passengers in a matter of a few years, from 40,000 in 2010 to 500,000 in 2015. British guests wishing to experience these types of cruises will see a number of differences with entertainment being created specifically for the Chinese, larger retail and gambling areas, and different cuisine.

But there are also ships being deployed to Asia and Australasia to cater for British and other European guests. Norwegian Cruise Line has announced that they are returning to the Far East and Australia with new exciting itineraries departing from Singapore, Hong Kong, Sydney, Auckland and, for the first time ever, they are making visits to India. Other cruise lines offering holidays in the region include Oceania, Regent Seven Seas, Holland America Line, Silversea and Princess Cruises.

Asia remains a perfect destination for a cruise holiday with so many wonderful places best visited by ship. Our latest figures show there has been a 29 per cent increase in the number of British cruise passengers who have visited the Far East and Australasia and I'm not surprised. I have been lucky enough to spend time in Bangkok, Hong Kong, Singapore and Beijing, and can completely understand the attraction. The diversity across the region, coupled with the history, scenery, beaches, shopping, culture and people, make this a stand-out area to visit.

\*Turn to page 52 for a review of an Asia cruise on Royal Caribbean's *Quantum of the Seas*. 🌊



My favourite cities in the world are New York, Los Angeles and Prague; I love their busyness. I also love St James in Barbados for the peacefulness.



I always love returning to my hometown of Ormskirk, a market town in West Lancashire famous for its gingerbread. I'm very lucky to travel around a fair bit with my career and going home always brings a very happy perspective.



# JON *Culshaw*

The acclaimed impressionist and comedian shares his favourite destinations



For my last holiday, I travelled to Crookhaven in southwest Cork and strolled by Mizen Head and visited the now ruined Mere Brow signal station where Marconi first sent radio signals to America. It's a highly atmospheric and special place.

Cruising is a great way to visit destinations because it gives you a different view every day. I love how the inside of the cabin stays the same but the outside changes.



The vastness of Australia would be fantastic to behold; I haven't had the chance to visit yet, but would love to. Seeing the Milky Way galaxy from the Southern Hemisphere would be amazing, too. Egypt's on my wish list for its biblical history, as is the Arctic Circle, for the chance to see the Midnight Sun. I want to visit Idaho Falls in the US in 2017 to watch the total solar eclipse there. I've seen two solar eclipses at sea and I'd love to see one on land.

My first family holiday was in 1980 to Perth in Scotland. I fondly recall my dad buying me half a shandy and feeling I'd stepped up in the world. I also played Space Invaders for the first time.



Jon Culshaw will be performing on board Saga's 15-night Mediterranean cruise departing Southampton on 22 November 2015. To book, call 0800 505 030.

PHOTOS: © ISTOCK

*"I love St James in Barbados for the peacefulness"*

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